

HIMEJI CASTLE: INSIDE JAPAN'S GREATEST FEUDAL FORTRESS

HISTORY *of* WAR



**SADDAM'S
DESERT STORM**
THE TRUTH BEHIND
IRAQ'S DOOMED WAR

THE EMPIRE CRUSHER

Sweden's holy war against Rome



**KHMER
ROUGE**
THE MASSACRES,
MURDER & MAYHEM

THE D-DAY THAT FAILED

PLUS

- Fort McHenry
- Medal of Honor hero
- English Civil War siege

DIEPPE: WHY THE FIRST ASSAULT ON HITLER'S FORTRESS EUROPE TURNED FROM TRIUMPH TO TRAGEDY

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Welcome

**“For every soldier who died at Dieppe,
ten were saved on D-Day”**

– Lord Louis Mountbatten

Behind every great victory lies many lesser-known tales of tragedy and sacrifice. Watching the memorial events of ANZAC Day, it's odd to consider that the British failure at Gallipoli was also a great Ottoman victory.

From another perspective, the successful Normandy landings owe a huge debt to the soldiers of the disastrous Dieppe Raid two years previous. Those killed paid the ultimate price so that lessons could be learned for the future victory.

The Gulf War of 1990-91 could easily refer to the disparity between the Iraqi Army and its coalition opposition. Though the US victory over Saddam Hussein is well documented, the horrific

experiences of Iraqi troops on the ground has been largely forgotten.

Clearly, by focusing just on the victory, we miss the sobering reality of what it cost to achieve.



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JACK GRIFFITHS

This issue our Senior Staff Writer has developed penchants for Herring, IKEA products and ABBA while rustling up his feature on Gustavus Adolphus: Sweden's 17th-century king who smashed the Holy Roman Empire (page 38).



MIGUEL MIRANDA

Conspiracies, coups and civil strife; that's just for starters in Miguel's analysis of how Thailand came to be under the control of its army once again. In the Briefing (page 68) he uncovers the struggle for power embedded in this country's history.



TALLHA ABDULRAZAQ

Tallha took some time out from his PhD studies in Strategy and Security to put together this issue's In the Eye Of Desert Storm feature (page 54). In it he focuses on the story of the Iraqi forces and their struggle in an impossible war.

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On page 28, read about how the failures of Dieppe helped save the lives of many on D-Day



THE RAF STRIKES BACK

74 How Bomber Command used terrifying total war tactics to crush German morale



Frontline

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From Norman keeps to samurai strongholds, trace the evolution of the castle

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Explore inside one of Japan's finest fortresses that has survived the centuries

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A few of the genius builders and die-hard defenders who made castles what they are

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See how stone strongholds have helped nations stay standing

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English Heritage's Roy Porter talks motte and baileys and the birth of stone fortresses

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Thailand in chaos

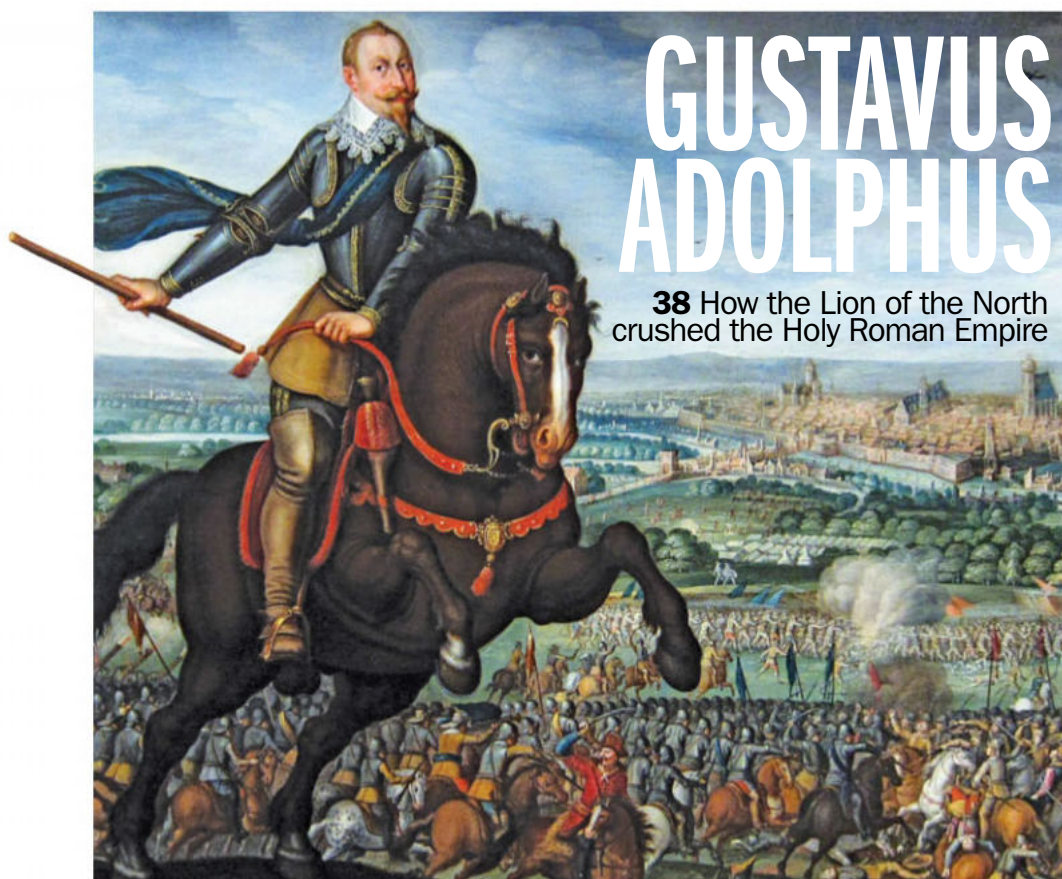
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Stunning imagery from throughout history, showing war in all its jaw-dropping detail

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Dieppe Raid

An attempt to establish a beach head in Nazi France turns into a military disaster

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How Sweden's warrior king single-handedly changed the course of the Thirty Years' War

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Khmer Rouge

Uncover the roots of one of the most brutal regimes of the 20th century

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Tallha Abdulrazaq uncovers a side of the Gulf War you haven't seen before

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Robert G Cole

A staggering account of unrivalled bravery behind enemy lines in occupied France

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Bangkok's brutal side is exposed in this analysis of Thailand's troubled history

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A change of tactics saw Bomber Command unleash hell over Nazi Germany

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Gulf War

The sobering statistics of the war against Saddam's Iraq tell their own story



IN THE EYE OF DESERT STORM

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DIEPPE

D-DAY FAILED

OPERATOR'S HANDBOOK

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28 How did this Allied assault turn into one of the greatest disasters of World War II?







WAR_{in} **FOCUS**

FIRE ON THE ENEMY

Taken c. 1967

Lieutenant Commander Donald D Sheppard takes aim at a suspected Viet Cong bunker on the banks of the Bassac River, Vietnam. Natural bamboo shelters lining Vietnam's riverbanks were often used to hide entrances to underground complexes, so US river patrols simply burned them down, usually by using mounted flamethrowers. However, pictured here is a far less common method for burning out the enemy combatants.





WARⁱⁿ FOCUS

A CHARGE OF THE RUSSIAN LEIB GUARD

Painted c. 1914

Viktor Vinkentevich Mazurovsky's painting captures the chaotic moment Russian and French cavalry crashed into each other during the Battle of Friedland, 1807. Napoleon's victory at Friedland spelled the end of the War of the Fourth Coalition with the signing of the Treaty of Tilsit by Tsar Alexander I of Russia. This treaty forced Russia to side with France against the British Empire and saw Prussia occupied by the Grande Armée.



WAR_{in} FOCUS

COMING HOME TO ROOST

Taken 20 January 2015

Hints of a rainbow shine in the cascading water droplets churned up by the twin tiltrotors of a V-22 Osprey coming in to land. Developed during the 1980s and first commissioned by the US Marine Corps in 2007, the aircraft's design is instantly recognisable. With its twin tiltrotor blades providing VTOL capability, the Osprey is even able to fold away its 25-metre wingspan for storage while off mission. Its operational range is far beyond most helicopters, which, coupled with a top speed of 310mph, makes it a formidable asset.





WAR_{in} **FOCUS**

OPERATION ARCHERY

Taken 27 December 1941

A wounded British soldier is evacuated by comrades during a raid on Nazi supply depots in Norway. The mission, conducted primarily by the newly formed British commandos and code named Operation Archery, was a bold move to take the fight to the Germans in the islands of Vågsøy and Måløy. It sought to disrupt enemy operations in the North Sea and prevent forces from joining the Eastern Front. The operation was considered a success, with Nazi coastal defences destroyed and 30,000 extra troops diverted to protect the coastline.





Frontline

CASTLES

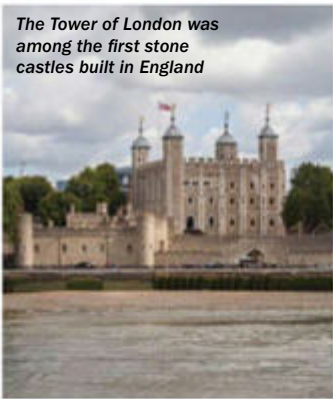
Built to protect and defend, how have castles changed over the centuries?

THE MIZUKI 'WATER FORTRESS' – JAPAN'S FIRST CASTLE AN EARLY DESIGN, BIG IN JAPAN IN THE 7TH CENTURY

664 Japan

Before the first castles were built in Japan, temporary forts and fortified homes were common. But, as the threat of invasion from China and Korea grew during the 7th century, the need for more formidable defences became clear, and Japan's first free-standing castle was built at Dazaifu.

The Tower of London was among the first stone castles built in England



FIRST STONE CASTLES BUILT IN BRITAIN

A NEW ERA OF CONSTRUCTION

1067 England

After being made Earl of Hereford, William fitzOsbern began work on Chepstow Castle along the Welsh bank of the River Wye. Soon after, construction of the iconic Tower of London was completed. These early stone castles replaced earlier motte-and-bailey predecessors, often building over their foundations. Over the next century, dozens of stone keeps were built throughout Britain.

Korean and Chinese forces were successfully beaten back at the Siege of Ulsan

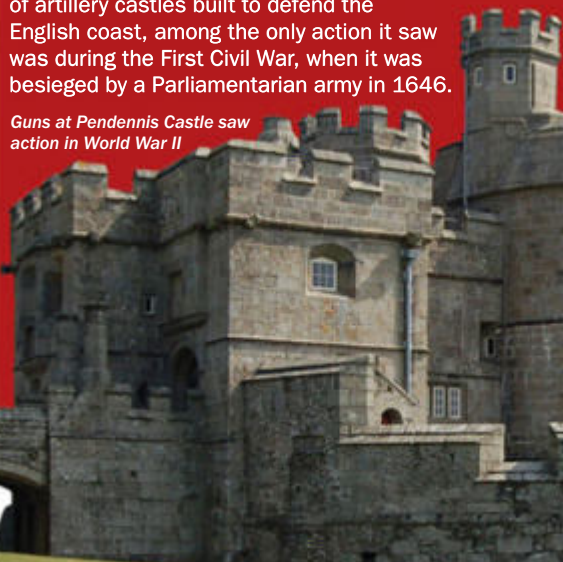


ARTILLERY FORTRESS – PENDENNIS CASTLE NO LONGER JUST FOR PROTECTION

1539 England

Commissioned by Henry VIII, Pendennis was part of a new breed of castle designed to both withstand bombardment by cannon and return fire. Part of a string of artillery castles built to defend the English coast, among the only action it saw was during the First Civil War, when it was besieged by a Parliamentary army in 1646.

Guns at Pendennis Castle saw action in World War II



THE SIEGE OF CANDIA – THE LONGEST SIEGE IN HISTORY PROVING THE STRENGTH OF THE FORTIFIED STRUCTURES

1648-1669 Crete

The longest siege in recorded history began in 1648, when the Knights Hospitaller captured an Ottoman convoy. In retaliation, the Ottomans dispatched 60,000 troops to besiege the Hospitaller base at Candia on Crete. For 21 years they occupied the island, besieging the castle and town. The stalemate only ended when the garrison dwindled and was starved into submission in 1669.

The city of Candia was under siege from Ottoman forces for 21 years



“KRAK DES CHEVALIERS, NEAR THE EMBATTLED SYRIAN CITY OF HOMS, BECAME A REBEL STRONGHOLD THAT HAS SINCE BEEN FOUGHT OVER NUMEROUS TIMES”

**KRAK DES CHEVALIERS
STILL STANDING AFTER MORE THAN 800 YEARS**

2011-present Syria
Even in the 21st century, castles continue to play a part in conflict. In 2011, the 800-year-old Crusader castle Krak des Chevaliers, near the embattled Syrian city of Homs, became a rebel stronghold that has since been fought over numerous times. The castle has been heavily damaged by shelling.



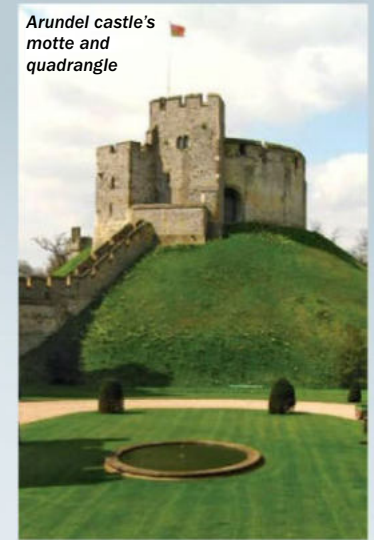
Top: Syrian Crusader castle Krak des Chevaliers, as seen from the southwest
Middle: As well as being positioned on top of a hill, the castle has a moat
Bottom: The castle is made up of many structures, including this aqueduct



A scene from the Bayeux Tapestry depicting the siege of the Château de Dinan

**MOTTE-AND-BAILEY CASTLES
QUICKLY BUILT BEACONS OF POWER**

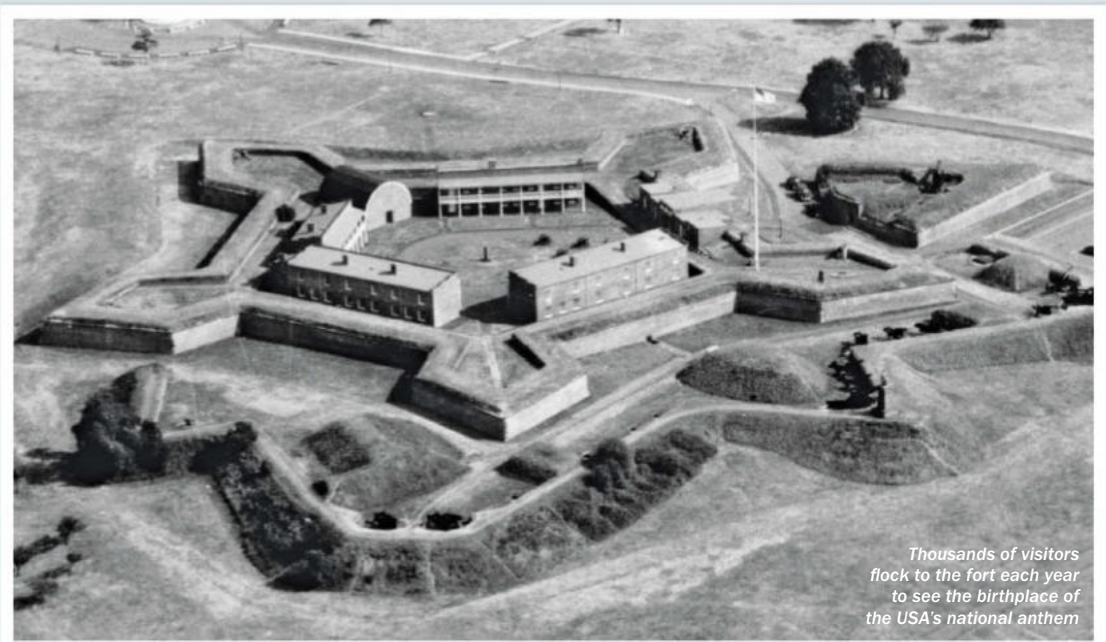
950s Northern France and England
Motte-and-bailey castles were quick, easy and cheap to build. Made up of the motte, a mound of earth, and the bailey, a ditch and wooden palisade enclosure, the design originated from northern Europe and was used by the Normans as they expanded their territory. Ideal for quickly securing newly conquered territory, William the Conqueror built hundreds across Britain.



Arundel castle's motte and quadrangle

**FORT McHENRY – THE STAR FORT ENDURES
THE STAR-SPANGLED SYMBOL OF RESISTANCE**

September 1814 USA
Built in the 18th century to defend Baltimore harbour from naval attacks, this modern incarnation of the traditional castle followed the five-pointed star design to maximise the efficiency of the fort's guns. During the War of 1812, a British bombardment of McHenry inspired Francis Scott Key to write his poem Defence of Fort M'Henry, later adapted to the USA's national anthem.



Thousands of visitors flock to the fort each year to see the birthplace of the USA's national anthem

ANATOMY OF...

HIMEJI CASTLE

In 1600, Ikeda Terumasa was given the fief of Himeji as reward for supporting his Shogun in battle. In 1609, he built one of Japan's finest castles

VANITY TOWER

The castle complex is made up of 83 buildings including the Vanity Tower, which was occupied by Princess Sen when she lived at the castle.

OUTER BAILEY

(Nisbi-Nomaru)

THE SECOND BAILEY

(Ninomaru)

MOATS

When the castle was expanded at the beginning of the 17th century, three moats were dug to protect the approaches to the fort. This defended against ladder attacks and undermining of the walls.

PROJECTILE HOLES

Stone-dropping holes were built into the castle's palisades to stop attackers from scaling the walls.

THE HISHI GATE

The enclosed main gatehouse (Otemon) protects the entrance to the outer bailey. The two gates are separated by a deadly killing ground (Masugata) where an attacker would come under fire from all sides.

HAIRPIN BEND

A false 'hairpin bend' wall forced attackers to move closer to the keep in order to reach the next gatehouse, exposing themselves to deadly fire from the keep's defenders.

SANGOKU MOAT

This obstacle funnelled attackers towards the castle's next well-defended gatehouse.

HIMEJI CASTLE

YEAR BUILT: 1333, REBUILT & EXPANDED IN 1609 & 1618
LOCATION: KANSAI REGION, SOUTH-CENTRAL JAPAN
NUMBER OF DEFENDERS: 3,000 SAMURAI AND WARRIORS

GETTING TO THE KEEP

The castle's keep could only be reached by negotiating the confusing maze of moats, dead ends, walls and gatehouses. While trying to reach the keep, attackers would be under constant fire from almost all sides.

MAIN TOWER

Himeji's main tower (Tenshu) is an impressive 46 metres high, dominating the landscape. It acted as a vantage point as well as a symbol of the lord's power. It also provided the main living quarters and the castle's last line of defence.

ARCHITECTURE THAT WAS BUILT TO LAST

Himeji Castle is arguably Japan's most beautiful castle and the finest example of 17th-century Japanese castle architecture. Its prototypical design represents every aspect of the peak of Japanese castle design. Its magnificent six-storey keep is surrounded by a series of terraces with a maze of internal walls. Himeji is one of the few original Japanese castles that has escaped the ravages of earthquakes, civil war and bombings over the past 400 years. The first castle at Himeji was built in 1333, but the present castle was completed in 1609. Although the castle was never attacked, its formidable presence ensured it survived the centuries.



Ikeda Terumasa was granted Himeji Castle by Tokugawa Ieyasu after the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600. He greatly expanded the fortress.

KEEP

Himeji's keep has six storeys. The ground floor is the largest, covering 554 metres squared, which acted as the castle's armoury holding 300 matchlock muskets and 100 spears. Each floor has its own purpose with richly decorated domestic rooms encircled by military corridors.

MAIN INNER BAILEY (Bizenmaru)**DESIGN**

Himeji is a Hashigokaku-style castle built in a mountainous area. The design takes advantage of numerous terraces, forcing attackers to negotiate a labyrinth of successive courtyards at various different levels.

FOOD WAREHOUSES

The castle complex contains a number of grain, water, rice and salt warehouses capable of holding enough food to sustain the 3,000-strong garrison during a siege.

FAN WALLS

Curved 'fan walls' made of compacted earth encased in stone were designed to defend against cannon fire. This is topped with a solid plaster palisade, which is perforated with gun and arrow loops to fire on attackers.

SIZE

Himeji Castle encompasses a huge area of 41,468 metres squared, making it the largest castle in Japan and one of the biggest in the world.

OBI QUARTER

Legend has it that this small bailey was a site of ritual suicide, but in reality it was an important defensive position protecting the eastern approach of the castle.



HEROES & INNOVATORS

The architects responsible for designing formidable fortresses and the die-hard commanders who bled defending them

KŌSA CHIEF ABBOT OF ISHIYAMA HONGAN-JI, A CATHEDRAL FORTRESS OF THE IKKŌ-IKKI

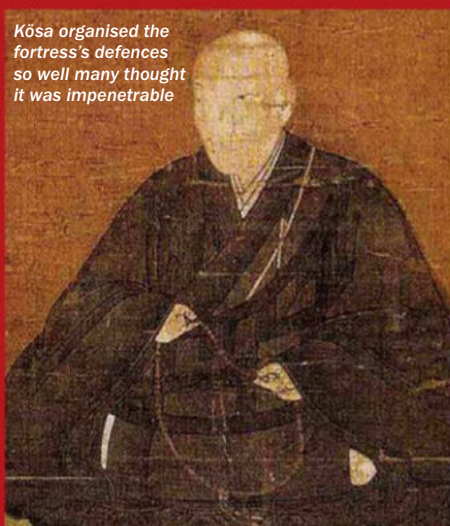
Years Active: 1570-1580

Country of Origin: Japan

Kōsa, an abbot, commanded the temple-fortress of Ishiyama Hongan-ji, near Osaka, during Japan's longest siege. For ten years Kōsa led the Ikkō-ikki, a group of Buddhist warrior monks and their supporters, against Oda Nobunaga, a powerful Samurai warlord. Kōsa built a network of outposts to defend Hongan-ji, keeping his garrison supplied by sea. He beat off Oda's attack using massed volleys fired by arquebusiers who poured a hail of shots onto Oda's men. Despite Kōsa and his followers holding out for ten years, by 1580 the garrison had been starved into submission and Kōsa was forced to surrender, ending resistance to the unification of Japan under a shogunate.

"DESPITE KŌSA AND HIS FOLLOWERS HOLDING OUT FOR 10 YEARS, BY 1580 THE GARRISON HAD BEEN STARVED INTO SUBMISSION"

Kōsa organised the fortress's defences so well many thought it was impenetrable



William d'Albini at the signing of the Magna Carta with King John

WILLIAM D'ALBINI THE REBEL BARON

Years Active: 13th century

Country of Origin: England

In 1215, William d'Albini, a rebel baron, led a small band of knights in the defence of Rochester Castle against King John. The siege of Rochester was one of the largest and hardest fought in English history. With 120 knights, d'Albini held Rochester for nearly two months. The king's forces pounded the castle with five huge catapults day and night but failed

to penetrate its two-metre thick curtain wall. He ordered miners to undermine and collapse the wall and by mid-October, d'Albini and the exhausted defenders were forced to retreat inside the castle's keep. In November, the king's forces undermined the keep, collapsing one of the corner towers. D'Albini refused to surrender, fiercely defending the breach in the keep's walls and fighting on for another week before they were starved into submission. The lives of the rebel garrison were spared and d'Albini was imprisoned. Following John's death he swore loyalty to his successor Henry III.



Balian's forces defeated Saladin's approaching army at the Battle of Montgisard in 1177

BALIAN OF IBELIN DEFENDER OF JERUSALEM

Years Active: 1170-1193

Country of Origin: Middle Francia (present-day northern Italy)

Balian is best known for his defence of the holy city of Jerusalem against Saladin in 1187. Like his father he became a Knight of Jerusalem, and fought at the Battle of Montgisard in 1177,

where he led the Crusader vanguard against Saladin's line, routing the Muslim army. By the 1180s, the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem was losing ground to Saladin's Ayyubid Sultanate. At the disastrous Battle of Hattin, Balian led a wing of the Crusader army's rearguard but, despite desperate Crusader attempts to escape, the army was forced to surrender. While King Guy of Jerusalem was taken prisoner, Balian managed to evade capture.

When Balian arrived in Jerusalem to take his wife to safety, Sibylla, Queen of Jerusalem, begged him to lead the city's defence against Saladin's imminent attack. With just 70 knights and several thousand men-at-arms, they held out against Saladin's army of 20,000 for more than two weeks. In late September 1187, Saladin used siege towers to try to overcome the city's walls, however, Balian's men fought them off every time in vicious fighting on the ramparts. Saladin turned to siege engines to break down the city's walls, using huge Mangonel catapults to create several breaches. Fierce hand-to-hand fighting took place in the breaches and by early October Balian had only a few hundred men available to man the defences.

With Jerusalem's population exhausted, Balian was forced to surrender. 15,000 of the Christian inhabitants were enslaved. When the Third Crusade was launched in 1189 to retake Jerusalem, Balian took command of Richard I's rearguard at the Battle of Jaffa, where Richard defeated Saladin. Balian played a pivotal role in negotiating the Treaty of Ramla, which ended the Third Crusade and saw the Crusaders regain much lost territory, but not Jerusalem or Balian's own castle at Ibelin.

WILLIAM FITZOSBERN CASTLE BUILDER AND COUNSELLOR TO WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

Years Active: 1060-1071

Country of Origin: France

Norman Nobleman William FitzOsbern was a relative of William the Conqueror and accompanied him during his invasion of England. He even fought at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. He was one of the first great magnates of Norman England, becoming the Earl of Hereford in 1067. FitzOsbern played a major role in subduing

the Anglo-Saxon resistance to William throughout the English midlands and south.

His legacy, though, remains the building of some of Britain's earliest motte-and-bailey castles. He is believed to have designed and built Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight as well as a series of castles along the Welsh border at Berkeley, Monmouth, Wigmore and Clifford, and one of Britain's first stone castles at Chepstow. Although FitzOsbern did not live to see the castle completed, it remained in use well into the 17th century. A career soldier, he was killed in 1071 at the Battle of Cassel.



Chepstow castle was one of Britain's first stone castles

MASTER JAMES OF ST GEORGE ARCHITECT AND MASTER CASTLE BUILDER

Years Active: 1260-1309

Country of Origin: Savoy

Master James of St George is responsible for the design and building of some of Britain's most spectacular and militarily advanced castles. A master mason, like his father, Master James worked on castles throughout Savoy and France. His first English castles were built for Edward I at Flint and Rhuddlan in northern Wales. Following Edward's conquest of northern Wales in the 1270s, Master James was appointed Master of Royal Works in Wales, beginning the construction of a series of brilliantly designed castles at Caernarfon, Conwy, Harlech and the concentric symmetrical masterpiece of Beaumaris on the northern Welsh coast. Using cutting-edge design inspired by European, Crusader and Muslim castles, Master James's castles were ambitious and hugely expensive, with Caernarfon costing almost £20,000 – the equivalent of £15 million today. In the early 1300s he worked in Scotland at Linlithgow and during the siege of Stirling before he died in 1309.

NICOLA DE LA HAYE CASTELLAN (GOVERNOR) OF LINCOLN CASTLE

Years Active: 1180-1230

Country of Origin: England

Nicola de la Haye is one of several women who bucked the normal role of Medieval women and commanded the defence of their castles. As England plunged into political chaos with King Richard away on Crusade, Richard's brother John moved to reassert stability. As a staunch ally of Prince John, Nicola de la Haye defended Lincoln Castle from attack numerous times. In 1191, with her husband away on campaign, she defended the castle for 40 days against John's rival William Longchamps. When her husband died, Nicola officially became Lincoln Castle's governor. In 1216, now in her 60s, Nicola again defended the castle during the Baron's Revolt in the name of John, who was now king. When John died of dysentery in October 1216, the French took the opportunity to invade. In 1217, Nicola fought off French attacks on Lincoln for more than a month before she was relieved.



CASTLES OF THE WORLD

From Europe to Africa and India to Japan, castles have been key to the survival of societies for 1,000 years

1 THE MOORS' LAST STAND AT GRANADA

GRANADA, SPAIN 1492

Ferdinand and Isabella completed the Christian Reconquista of Spain with the capture of the great Alhambra palace fortress at Granada after an eight-month siege.



'The Capitulation Of Granada' by Francisco Pradilla Ortiz shows Boabdil confronting Ferdinand and Isabella

2 BREAST FORTRESS HOLDS BACK THE NAZIS

BREST, BELARUS 22-29 JUNE 1941

One of the first conflicts of Operation Barbarossa saw the small Soviet garrison of Brest Fortress hold out for five days against overwhelming odds. The building was awarded the title Hero Fortress by the Soviet Union after the war.

Just 9,000 men at Brest Fortress held out for five days against up to 20,000 advancing Nazis



Malbork – Europe's largest castle

Date: 1275 MALBORK, POLAND

Earth and wood: Vinchy Castle

Date: 979 VINCHY, NORTHERN FRANCE

The first Norman stone keep in Britain

Date: 1067-90 CHEPSTOW, UK

The Bam citadel

Date: 700-1100 BAM, IRAN

Fasil Ghebbi – Castle of the Ethiopian emperors

Date: 1635 GONDAR, ETHIOPIA

Built by Emperor Fasilides in the 1630s in Gondar, the first Ethiopian capital, the castle covers 70,000 square metres. Constructed from stone, it is protected by a curtain wall and 12 towers.

Fortress city of Great Zimbabwe

Date: 1100-1500 MASVINGO, ZIMBABWE

This elaborately built stone city deep in the Kingdom of Zimbabwe had a six-metre high enclosure and a nine-metre high conical tower. 19th-century Western explorers couldn't believe Africans had built the city.

3 THE SIEGE OF FORT SUMTER SPARKS THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

SOUTH CAROLINA, USA APRIL 1861

When the Union garrison of Fort Sumter, off the coast of Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, came under attack by Confederate troops, it signalled the Civil War had officially begun. Major Robert Anderson surrendered the fort the day after the bombardment began.

The Mizuki 'water castle' – Japan's first castle

Date: 664 DAZAIFU, SOUTH-WESTERN JAPAN

Samnyeon Sanseong Mountain Fortress

Date: 470-90 BOEUN, SOUTH KOREA

This fortress was built by the Silla Kingdom to defend a strategic position between the three rival kingdoms of Korea.

Namhansanseong Castle – Korea's emergency mountain capital

Date: 1624 SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Maruoka – Japan's oldest surviving castle

Date: 1576 FUKUI, JAPAN

Himeji castle – The 'White Heron Castle'

Date: 1330-1618

HIMEJI, JAPAN

Japan's most beautiful castle, it has been expanded many times over the centuries and never besieged. Today, the structure represents the archetypal Japanese castle.

Kangra Fort – India's oldest castle

Date: 100 KANGRA, INDIA

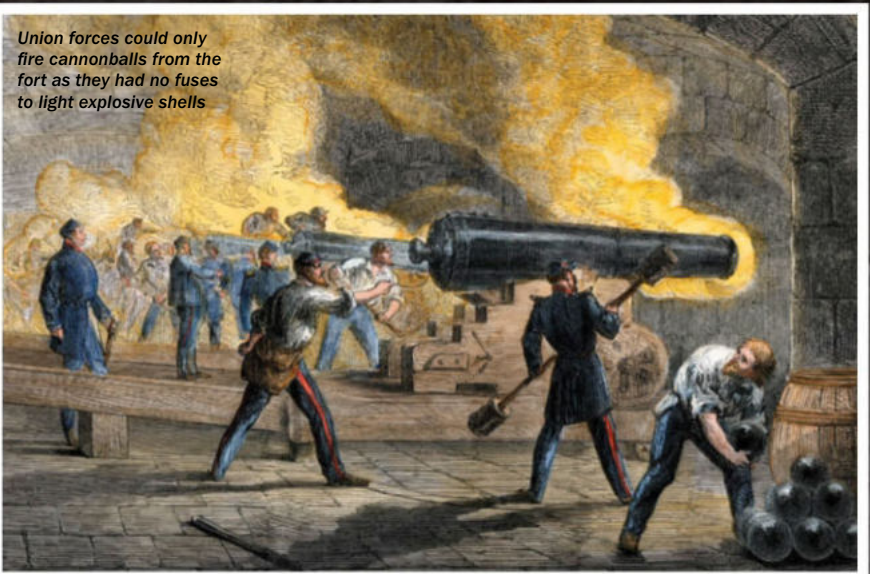
Mehrangarh Fort

Date: 1459
JODHPUR, INDIA

6 SALADIN BUILDS HIS CAIRO CITADEL

CAIRO, EGYPT 1176-83

This citadel was built by Saladin to protect the city from the Christian Crusaders, but it was never attacked. It served as Egypt's seat of power until the mid-19th century.



4 EDWARD I SUBDUES WALES WITH CASTLES

CAERNARFON, NORTH WALES, UK 1283-95

Edward I built a series of castles designed by Master James of St George to defend his newly gained territory in northern Wales. Castles at Harlech, Caernarfon, Conway and Beaumaris were among the most advanced and expensive built in Britain.

5 KRAK DES CHEVALIERS FALLS

HOMS, SYRIA 1271

Commanding a strategic position, the site of the castle was occupied by the Knights Hospitaller for 200 years. The present castle was re-built in the 13th century and finally fell to a Muslim army under Baibars, Sultan of Egypt, in 1271.





Frontline

THE GREAT SIEGE OF SCARBOROUGH CASTLE

18 FEBRUARY-25 JULY 1645

As the strength of the New Model Army grows, a Royalist stronghold in Yorkshire is next on Cromwell's list of targets

The civil war was going from bad to worse for Charles and his loyal supporters.

After the disastrous defeat at Marston Moor, the king had now lost his whole northern support base. Only Scarborough remained, but its limited impact on the war meant the Parliamentarians had no reason to take it.

This all changed when they discovered that the fortress there was intercepting supply ships heading to the capital. By February 1645, this became too much for the Roundheads and the order was given to lay siege to the castle. A natural lookout surrounded by the sea on three sides, a siege would be no easy task.

"THE GREAT TOWER IS FINALLY TOPPLED BY A DIRECT HIT FROM A 65-POUND SHOT. THE ARTILLERY HAS STRUCK A VICTORY"

CANNON FROM THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

THE ARTILLERY PIECES USED TO REDUCE CASTLES TO RUBBLE

FALCONET

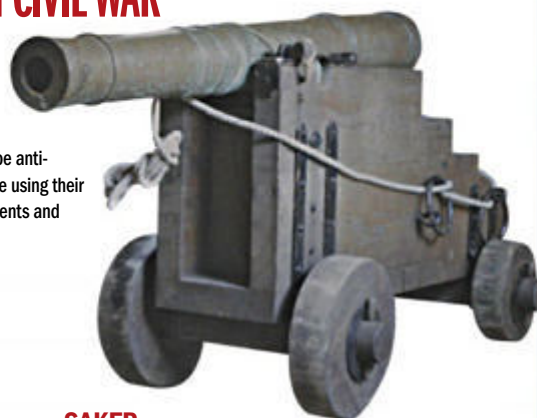
Cannons weren't just for smashing down walls – they could be anti-personnel as well. Falconets and minions performed this role using their cannonballs to pick off both siege defenders on the battlements and infantry on the battlefield.

Ammunition: 5lb (2.2kg) cannonballs.

DEMI-CULVERIN

An effective medium cannon, demi-culverins were lighter than standard culverins, which made them more manoeuvrable during a siege. A favourite of both the Royalists and the Parliamentarians, the design's cannonballs still packed a punch.

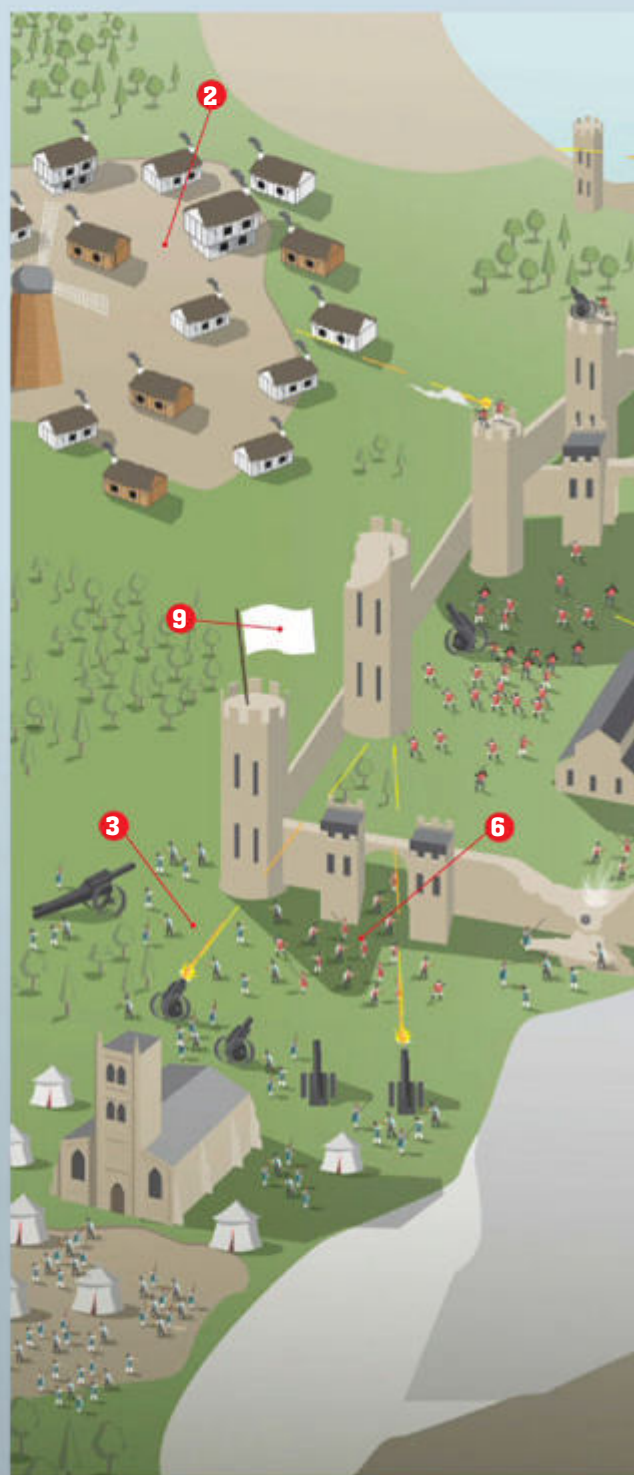
Ammunition: 8lb (3.6kg) cannonballs.



SAKER

Continuing the trend of naming artillery pieces after birds, the saker was used extensively throughout the civil war. The cannon was first seen in the Tudor era and fired solid iron shots that could bring down walls and fortifications.

Ammunition: 5.25lb (2.4kg) cannonballs.



1 DEFENSIVE UPGRADE

Upon hearing of the imminent Parliamentary advance, the Royalist castle commander Sir Hugh Cholmley hastily opens negotiations for surrender. He does not intend to submit though, and he uses the time to bolster the castle defences and prepare for battle.

2 THE TAKING OF SCARBOROUGH

The Roundhead forces are 1,700 strong and led by Sir John Meldrum. The town of Scarborough is taken easily with no significant casualties. The port and town centre now belong to the Parliamentarians, but the castle is still for the taking.

3 THE BOMBARDMENT BEGINS

After a six-week delay due to Meldrum falling off a cliff in a bizarre incident, the siege gets under way. The attackers



garrison themselves in a church below the castle and unleash the Cannon Royal, the largest cannon in the country, on the battlements of the castle.

4 ROYALIST REPLY

Soaking up the hits, the defenders return fire, damaging the church where the Parliamentarians are stationed. The castle is stocked full of food and gunpowder, so is well prepared to put up a fight.

5 COLLAPSE OF THE KEEP

Despite the brief success, Meldrum's attacks are relentless and the barrage destroys the castle keep as the walls collapse. The great tower is finally toppled by a direct hit from a 65-pound shot. The artillery has struck a victory after three days of bombardment.

6 PARLIAMENTARIAN RETREAT

The collapse of the keep weakens the defenders, but as hand-to-hand combat breaks out in the main barbican gateway, the Royalists seize the initiative and counterattack the Parliamentary artillery battery, causing them to retreat.

7 PARLIAMENTARIAN REGROUP

Despite Meldrum being mortally wounded in the battle, the Roundheads change strategy and renew their artillery attacks. The defenders are still holding firm but scurvy and a lack of water are beginning to take their toll on the men within the battlements.

8 TURN OF THE TIDE

The new Roundhead strategy favours artillery attack from land and sea rather than infantry skirmishes. Prior to the battle,

Meldrum had seized the port and the 120 ships moored within. Cannonballs are now raining in from the sea as well as land.

9 ROYALIST SURRENDER

At noon on 25 July, the white flag is finally flown by the Royalist defenders. As the Parliamentarians burst in, they find only 25 men fit to fight with fewer than half of the 500 defenders left alive.

10 SECOND SIEGE

The castle is now in Parliamentary hands but three years later, a dispute over pay sees it revert back to a Royalist stronghold. This will be short lived, however, as a second siege in the winter of 1648 will put it back under Cromwell's rule.

HEAD TO HEAD

In the Middle Ages, Europe was dominated by a vast sprawl of stone fortresses. But which castle was the toughest to breach?

BURG HOCHOSTERWITZ

LOCATION: CARINTHIA, AUSTRIA **CONSTRUCTED:** 860
LOYALTY: HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, HOUSE OF HABSBURG

LOCATION

Crafted into dolomite rock 150 metres (492 feet) above the valley floor, the castle was well defended from all corners. Its viewpoint prevented attackers from making any surprise raids.

BATTLEMENTS

The long, winding access to the fortress is guarded by no less than 14 fortified gates. The 'Bergfried' square tower controlled entry into the castle.

DEFENDERS

Each gate had lit fires to help the soldiers stay fed and warm, as well as to fire the cannons. A sanctuary from invading forces, the number of defenders swelled with local townspeople taking up arms.

WEAPONS

The Wintperge battlements were ideal for defensive crossbow fire. Helmets, spears, lances and guns were stored in the well-stocked armoury.

SIEGE ENDURANCE

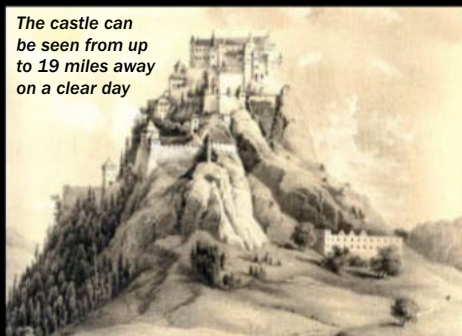
A 15-metre (49-foot) deep well in the central courtyard kept the defenders hydrated. Even if attackers were able to breach one gate, there were 13 others behind it that would need to be brought down for the castle to be taken.

TOTAL



The castle was under long-standing Protestant rule and was once a stronghold against the Catholic Counter-Reformation in Europe

The castle can be seen from up to 19 miles away on a clear day



THE GATEWAY TO THE SOUTH

The barrier of the Southern Limestone Alps was key in the defence of Austria from the growth of the Ottoman Empire in the 15th and 16th centuries. The castle was also coveted by adversaries closer to home, such as the leaders

of nearby regions Tyrol and Salzburg. The 14 gates were constructed between 1570 and 1586, as the Turkish threat grew stronger. The Khevenhüllertor gate is named after the castle's one-time owner, Baron George Khevenhüller. The largest gate, it was protected by its location in the rock and an iron portcullis that made it almost impenetrable.

“The castle was also coveted by adversaries closer to home”



When the city was under attack, the population would shelter inside the castle walls

LA ALCAZABA OF ALMERIA

CONSTRUCTED: 955 **LOCATION:** ALMERIA, SPAIN
LOYALTY: CALIPH OF CORDOBA/CATHOLIC MONARCHY OF SPAIN

LOCATION

Located in central Almeria, the fortress was well protected by its urban surroundings. Invaders from both land and sea could be spotted from the Saliente Bastión lookout point.

BATTLEMENTS

A bell was sounded whenever the citadel was under attack and a wall of watchtowers repelled frequent pirate raids. The 43,000-square-metre (141,076-square-foot) stronghold was walled off by 1,430 metres (4,692 feet) of stone.

DEFENDERS

La Alcazaba could be manned by 20,000 soldiers tasked with defending the structure. The population of Almeria would shelter in here too, helping launch projectiles from more than 100 watchtowers.

WEAPONS

The Christian part of the castle, built after the Reconquista, had cannon defences. The barracks inside allowed access to weapons and supplies could always be plundered from the port of Almeria.

SIEGE ENDURANCE

A hydraulic system of wells and cisterns kept defenders watered and an internal military camp helped keep the soldiers trained and disciplined. There were even fruit trees growing in the main courtyard.

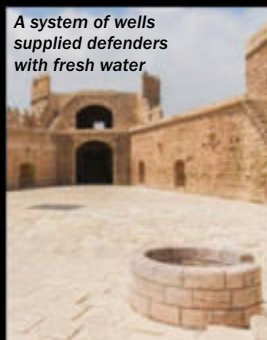
“La Alcazaba could be manned by 20,000 soldiers tasked with defending the structure”

TOTAL



A COASTLINE CITADEL

Arabic for ‘citadel’, La Alcazaba is made of three walled enclosures. The first was originally a military camp that acted as a refuge for the city’s residents. In times of peace, the castle was the core of Almeria, containing public baths and a mosque. Almeria was under Muslim rule since the first caliph of Al-Andalus in Islamic Spain and the castle was built in the 10th century upon the ruins of a previous fort. It is the second largest of all the Arabic fortresses on the peninsula and has been rebuilt several times through the ages, as it resisted attack throughout the Reconquista.



A system of wells supplied defenders with fresh water



Watchtowers were just the first line of defence



Cannons were installed in the fortress after the Reconquista

EVOLUTION OF CASTLES

Roy Porter from English Heritage explains how British castles developed from small strongholds to huge fortresses



Roy Porter manages the conservation of many castles in the UK

WHEN WERE THE FIRST CASTLES BUILT ON THE BRITISH ISLES?

The earliest appearance of castles in England has been a subject of long debate among historians. There is some evidence to suggest that Anglo-Saxon residences called burhgeats were effectively castles in as much as they were gated, defensible homes, but it's with the Norman Conquest that there's an explosion of castle building, incorporating structures such as mottes and great towers that we commonly associate with castles. As well as being homes for the new Norman elite, these castles enabled the military occupation of England.

HOW DID DESIGNS PROGRESS FROM EARTH TO STONE FORTRESSES?

The majority of early castles consisted of earthwork and timber defences, of which the motte-and-bailey was the classic design. By the 12th century there was a profusion of independent great towers constructed within castles, but by the second half of the 13th century, the emphasis on prestigious gatehouses is far greater. Also, by this time, concentric forms of defence had been increasingly adopted.

Another big development defensively came from the mid-14th century onwards, when castle designers started to incorporate artillery defence, with embrasures designed for handguns or small

cannon. However, it is important to note that there isn't a linear trajectory of design development. So, for example, Eynsford Castle in Kent is Norman but not a motte-and-bailey and had stone defences from very early in its history.

Dover Castle is probably the earliest example of a concentric castle, yet it also has a magnificent great tower. The design of a castle was a response to its location, the skill of its master mason, the available resources and the personal taste of its owner.

HOW WERE CASTLES CONSTRUCTED TO BEST REPEL ATTACKS?

Classically, castles tend to be located to take advantage of naturally defensive topography, commanding positions on the tops of hills or taking advantage of loops of rivers. But the inherent defensibility of a particular place might not be the primary impulse behind choice of location – some castles, for example, were superimposed on existing towns and settlements. To make up for any defensive deficiencies in the natural topography it would be necessary to create ditches, ramparts and moats to improve the defensibility of the castle.

DURING PEACE, HOW WERE CASTLES USED?

While we tend to think first of defence in relation to castles, the peacetime role of a castle, as a residence, tended to be its dominant function. The active use of most castles for defence was actually an infrequent occurrence, but their domestic utility was always important.

We must never forget that castles were grand residences designed to accommodate a lord and his household. While modern attention is often focused

on the defence mechanisms of a castle, at the heart of any castle was its hall and associated service buildings, chambers and accommodation, its chapel and its ancillary buildings.

Castles were also an important part of the way in which the political elite governed the land, usually being the focus of administration in their locality. A great lord's castle was an important economic entity as well as a physical one, while royal castles could be local centres of justice and imprisonment.

“THE ACTIVE USE OF MOST CASTLES FOR DEFENCE WAS ACTUALLY AN INFREQUENT OCCURRENCE”

WERE THERE EASY WAYS TO ATTACK A CASTLE AND WHICH SIEGE WEAPONS DID DEFENDERS MOST FEAR?

There were two basic ways to attack a castle: force yourself in or starve the defenders out. The latter was costly, often requiring 360-degree coverage of the castle, taking a long time and leaving the attackers vulnerable to counter attack while waiting.

Methods of attack varied through time. The *Bayeux Tapestry* depicts scenes of William the Conqueror attacking castles in Normandy, prior to embarking for England, by burning them. Later, huge siege engines were used to launch projectiles at the masonry or over the walls themselves. By the Hundred Years' War, artillery was being used to smash defences and demoralise the garrison in much the same way.

Perhaps the most feared method was to mine the castle to bring down part of the defences and get in underneath. This happened at Rochester Castle in 1215, and the results can still be seen in the

one round tower, which was built to replace the original square one after it was undermined, held up with wooden props and burned with pig fat.

WHAT WAS THE BEST WAY TO DEFEND A CASTLE?

The defence of a castle started with its construction, with the incorporation of features such as murder holes, arrow loops and machicolations, a good example of which can be seen on the gatehouse of Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight.

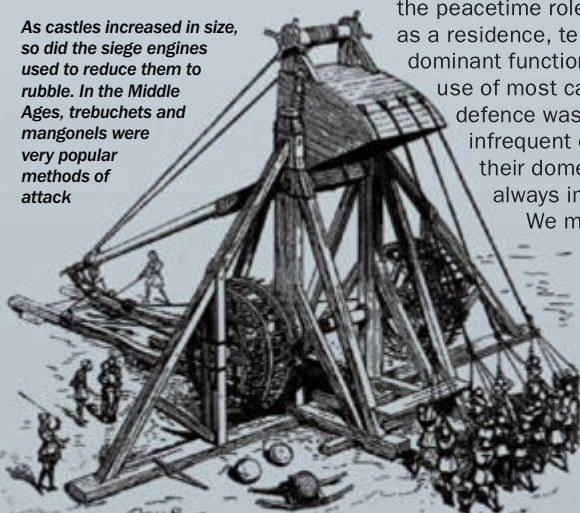
But another, potentially very effective form of defence is active, to get out and attack the incomers. Sorties by defending forces could seriously disrupt the plans of the attackers. Following a siege in 1216 at Dover Castle, a sophisticated form of outworks was created at its vulnerable northern perimeter. It was built to give the castle's garrison the opportunity to sneak out and launch a counter-attack against advancing forces, should the castle ever be under siege again.

WHY DID THE CASTLE AGE END? WAS THE EMERGENCE OF CANNONS A FACTOR?

With the revolution in warfare brought about by artillery, the defensibility of castles was undermined, yet we know that during the English Civil War of the 17th century, lots of castles held out for a reasonable time against cannons. Therefore, it was more than changes in warfare that were responsible for the demise of the castle. All buildings reflect the society that creates them, and by the end of the Middle Ages, the way that the elite chose to express their wealth and status was beginning to change.

Roy Porter is a properties curator for English Heritage, an independent charity looking after more than 400 of England's most important historic sites. Membership of English Heritage provides free admission to all of these places and contributes to protecting them. Visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/join.

As castles increased in size, so did the siege engines used to reduce them to rubble. In the Middle Ages, trebuchets and mangonels were very popular methods of attack



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Great Battles

DIEPPE RAID: THE D-DAY THAT FAILED

Attempting to halt the Nazi march to Moscow, a new Western Front is opened by the British at the French port of Dieppe

WORDS JACK GRIFFITHS

THE FACTS

WHO

Trying to help the stricken Red Army, Britain and its Commonwealth allies open up a second front in Normandy.

WHAT

A landing force is organised to establish a beachhead on the western coast of France as the Allies attempt to take back Europe.

WHERE

The German-occupied port of Dieppe, in Normandy, France.

WHY

Two fronts were required to overcome Nazi Germany and divert forces away from Operation Barbarossa in the east.

OUTCOME

A devastating loss for the British as the poorly planned operation is a complete failure. Lessons are learned for Operation Overlord.

Summer 1942 and the war is looking grim for the Allies. A Nazi invasion of Britain may no longer be a possibility but the progress of the Wehrmacht deep into Soviet territory and the mobilisation of the Japanese in the Pacific reveals an Axis-dominated world. As the Red Army retreats further, a siege on Stalingrad is just months away.

Bolstering German resolve, Reich minister of propaganda Joseph Goebbels has just launched the *Festung Europa* (Fortress Europe) propaganda material, aimed at keeping mainland Europe in the hands of Nazi Germany. With Stalin calling for aid from the West, now was the time for the British to put the ghosts of Dunkirk to rest and return to the continent with a decisive hammer blow against the Nazis.

The northwest boundary of the Third Reich was considered the weakest and the best place to strike. Allied generals were right to believe this, as the best Wehrmacht divisions were engaging the Red Army on the Eastern Front.

Most Axis forces defending the Normandy coastline were made up of new, fresh-faced recruits who weren't ready to join the brutality of Germany's Operation Barbarossa in the east. With only foreign conscripts to boost the ranks of the German 302nd Static Infantry Division, Dieppe was one of the weakest areas of the Reich. The coastal town was seen as an ideal location for the Allies to establish a foothold in occupied France and was chosen for the first amphibious assaults.

The plan had been in the making since 1940 and was simple: vanquish the defenders, establish a perimeter, destroy the port and then withdraw. The aim was not to create a lasting beachhead – the raid of Dieppe would be a shock event opening up France's western coast for future attacks, a plan that would eventually morph into Operation Overlord. Tactics were repeatedly practised by commandos in the UK as preparation for the largest combined operation of the war gathered pace.



The operation was to include Canadian troops from the country's 2nd Infantry Division, who were embarking on what would be one of country's major contributions to the Allied war effort. Both the British and Canadian governments were keen for the troops from the New World to gain battle experience and Dieppe was seen as an ideal opportunity.

By 1942, Canada had a full commitment to the Allies after previously contributing an all-volunteer formation. Major General Roberts took the reins of the Canadian battalions in late 1941 and based his leadership on a fresh impetus of training and performance to bring the recruits up to scratch. The new training programmes were based on the Isle of Wight and were an undoubted success, boosting both morale and fighting ability in the lead up to Dieppe. The population back in Canada were excited to hear about their boys in the thick of the action in Europe at last.

Opening a new Western Front

The Allied chiefs had their plan, but they still had a long way to go. France had already been occupied for some time and the Wehrmacht was deeply rooted in fortifications across the Channel. Cover for the raid would be provided by the RAF, but the Luftwaffe was still a threat.

The initial plan was known as Operation Rutter and was the brainchild of the Combined Operations HQ, with input from General Montgomery and the prime minister himself, Winston Churchill. The bulk of the assault would be led by British parachute units, who would distract German batteries on the headlands while the full force of the Navy and Army moved in. The attack was rigorously rehearsed and eventually satisfied Montgomery enough for him to give it the green light for 4 July. However, after continuous bad weather and repeated

postponements, the operation was scrapped and its code name changed to Operation Jubilee. Montgomery was summoned to North Africa and the raid at Dieppe would now be orchestrated by Lord Louis Mountbatten, the chief of combined operations, and would take place on 19 August, the final day that tides would suit the British.

The change wasn't just in name – the whole nature of the raid was altered. Air bombardment would be minimal so the port could be used by the British in the future and was reduced to priority targets only; destroyers were preferred over battleships to bombard the shoreline with support fire. The parachute operation was cancelled and instead the commandos would arrive by gunboat after the main force had assaulted the mainland. The Allied forces would depart from five ports between Southampton and Newhaven on England's south coast. The commandos would attack first in the early hours followed by engineers and demolition parties, who would take down telephone lines, railway tracks and power stations. Specialised enemy equipment and Wehrmacht plans were also sought after, especially in the radar site in nearby Pourville.

Operation Jubilee was good on paper but, in reality, the Germans were more prepared than many in the British military and political hierarchy had assumed. The intelligence on the German positions was average at best and, almost unbelievably, there were even reports that the suitability of the beaches for mechanised divisions was judged by old holiday photos. To make matters worse, French double agents had alerted the Wehrmacht generals to the British plans for Dieppe, so beach exits were blocked by barbed wire and concrete walls with pillboxes, and roadblocks were erected along the shoreline. Worse still, four alert and briefed German regiments lay waiting for the Allies.



Above: A German-created Canadian war cemetery is located five kilometres (3.2 miles) south of Dieppe to remember the brave soldiers who perished in the raid

The raid begins

As the Allied forces approached the coast at 3am on 19 August, some of the 4,963 Canadian troops may have dwelt on the somewhat meaningful coincidence that Dieppe was the port from which the first French settlers departed for New France in 1632. But the opportunity for reverie was soon over; the operation was now in full flow and would be divided into two phases. First, assault troops would strike artillery positions at Berneval and Varengeville at daybreak. This would be followed by an all-out assault on the harbour, making up the second phase.

The operation was so large that regular troops were called in to supplement the commandos. Minimal air cover was sanctioned to maintain secrecy but more than 60 fighter squadrons were ready to be deployed if the operation went south. The British and Canadians would also be joined by 50 US Rangers, the first Americans to fight in German-occupied Europe during the war.

Before the first Allied troops reached dry land, the British convoy had already hit trouble. A small band of German ships had found the Royal Navy and opened fire. The resistance was beaten off but the battle had awoken the Germans in Dieppe who, unknown to the British, were already manning their positions.

With their cover already blown, the now-late landing craft had a tough battle getting to the shore, with MG 34 bullets raining down from the pillboxes. Without the element of surprise or the cover of darkness, the attack on the beaches was going to be tougher than had been foreseen. Even second-rate Wehrmacht troops could man a machine gun and fire on scattered and ill-commanded Allied troops.

The main assault on the central beaches was led by Number 3 Commando Regiment, which was bogged down from the start with only 18 men arriving in the planned location. They were quickly overwhelmed by repeated fire from the cliffs and were forced to go on the defensive. 20 commandos did manage to get 180 metres (590 feet) away from the German battery and greatly aided the landing process, using their sniper rifles to stop the guns being aimed on the landing ships that were bringing more troops onto the beach.

The regiments further up the coast weren't faring much better. At Pys, an extremely narrow and steep beach secured by a

DAIMLER DINGO A BRITISH INNOVATION DESIGNED TO STORM THE BEACHES



DESIGN

A two-man vehicle, the Dingo was used for reconnaissance and as a speedy transport for officers and commanders.

ALL-TERRAIN

As adept off road as it was on, the Dingo could reach speeds of 88km/h (55mph). More than 6,000 were made during the war.

ARMOUR

The armour was originally thin but was strengthened to sloped 30mm (1.18in) panels in later models to protect against firearms.

CAPTURE

Dingos were just one of the Allied vehicles captured at Dieppe as the fleeing troops left behind tanks, equipment and weapons.



As well as prisoners of war, the occupying German forces also gained tanks and much more Allied equipment after Dieppe

“OPERATION JUBILEE WAS GOOD ON PAPER BUT, IN REALITY, THE GERMANS WERE MORE PREPARED THAN MANY IN THE BRITISH MILITARY AND POLITICAL HIERARCHY HAD ASSUMED”



heavily wired seawall had pinned down the disorganised Royal Regiment of Canada and they were forced to surrender after the loss of 200 men. Evacuation proved impossible with the sheer amount of German fire the soldiers were taking and for the Canadians, this was to remain the largest loss of life in one day they endured for the entire war.

Down the coast at Pourville, the South Saskatchewan Regiment and Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders had been more

successful, crossing the only bridge over the River Scie (after landing on the wrong side) and making inroads into the mainland. They were forced to withdraw, however, just before they reached their objective, a German-held airfield.

The Number 4 Commando Regiment fared the best, landing as planned and destroying a strong Wehrmacht battery at Varengeville before extracting safely and efficiently by 7.30am. By the end of the raid, they were the only unit to complete all of their objectives.



Armed with MG 32s and Stielhandgranate, the Wehrmacht soldiers were ideally positioned to defend against the raiding Allies

OPPOSING FORCES



BRITISH AND CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

LEADERS

Lord Louis Mountbatten (Chief of Combined Operations), Major General John Hamilton Roberts

STRENGTH 6,086 men

DIVISIONS Canadian 4th and 6th Infantry, Canadian 14th Army Tank Regiment, British 3 and 4 Commandos, British Royal Marine A Commandos

GAME CHANGERS

The newly minted British commandos had been well drilled while the Canadian regiments were eager to taste battle.



THE WEHRMACHT (GERMAN ARMED FORCES)

LEADERS

Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt, Lieutenant General Konrad Haase

STRENGTH 1,500 men

DIVISIONS German 302 Infantry Division (570th, 571st and 572nd Infantry Regiments, 302nd Artillery Regiment, Reconnaissance Battalion, Antitank Battalion, Engineer Battalion, Signal Battalion)

GAME CHANGERS

Dieppe had been under German command for two years, had natural defences and prepared regiments keen to defend 'Fortress Europe'.

GREAT BATTLES

*A German soldier looks on
as the wreckage of a British
landing craft burns*



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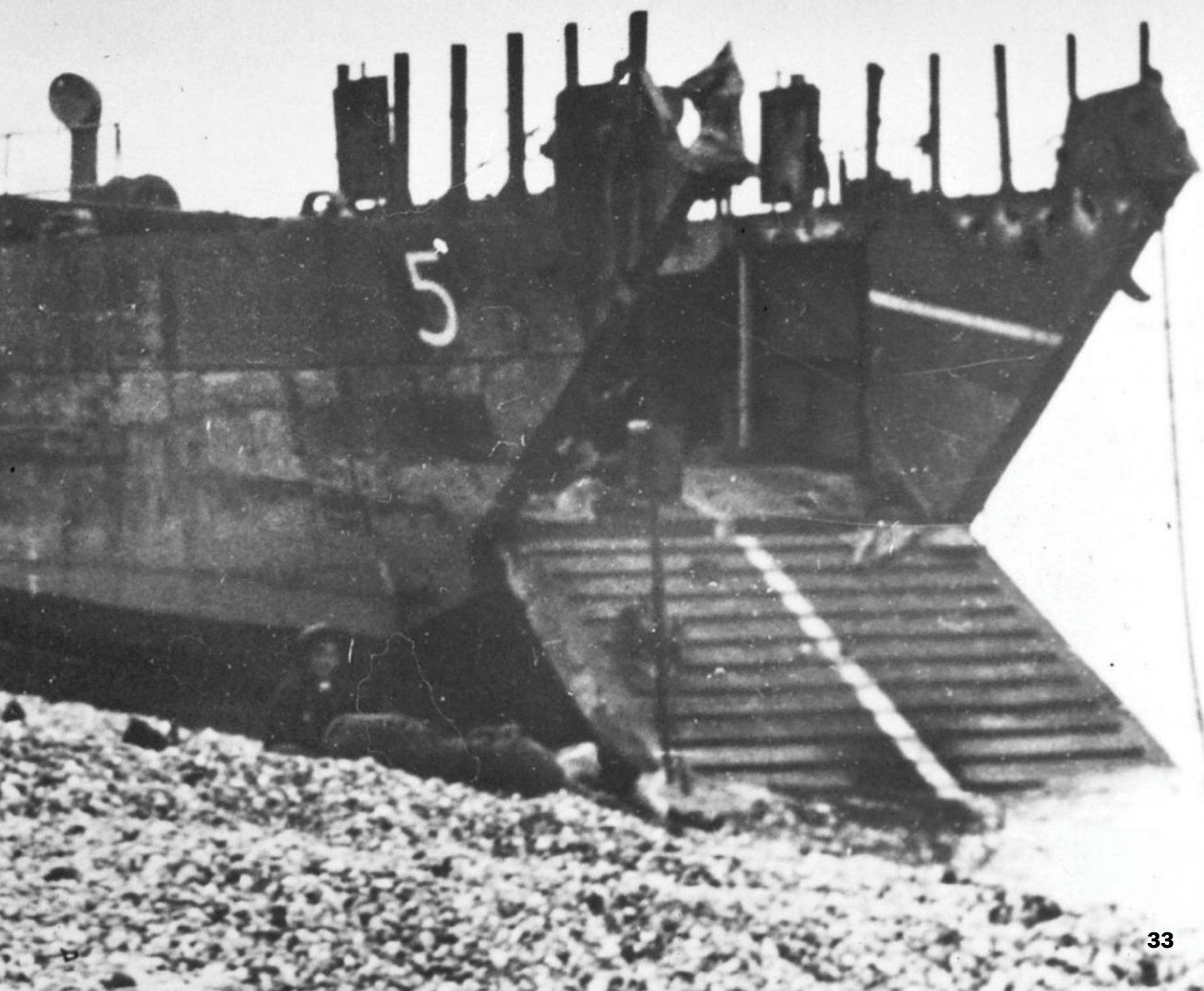
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AND FOR THE CANADIANS,
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Renewed assault

The initial attacks had mostly faltered but there was still hope for the operation to succeed as the main central assault got underway at about 5.20am. Led by the 14th Army Tank Battalion (Calgary Regiment), the Essex Scottish Regiment and the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, a number of new Churchill tanks were unleashed on the beaches with the aim of taking down the German resistance by demolishing walls and obliterating defensive positions. Unfortunately for the British, only 27 of the 58 tanks made it ashore and when they arrived were grossly under-prepared for what awaited them. Rather embarrassingly, many of the Churchills became stuck on the beach as the loose shingle wreaked havoc with the tanks' tracks. The mechanical monsters were now sitting helplessly under the machine guns and were picked off one by one.

For the 15 tanks that made it through the shingle, there was no respite. Heavily damaged from the machine gun crossfire, the tanks were unable to traverse the concrete roadblocks set up to repel them. The biggest losers in this debacle were the overworked Canadian engineers, who, in their attempts to repair the tracks, were gunned down beside their machines. 31 Royal Engineers died in total. Whatever hope the Churchills had of making it further was extinguished by ineffective fire from the offshore destroyers.

However, not all of the conflict was on the beaches. Some platoons made it to the town centre, where they engaged in vicious street-to-street fighting and managed to clear a heavily defended former casino acting as a centre of Nazi activity in the area. The leaders of the operation were unable to act appropriately due to the smokescreen obscuring their view of the battlefield and a lack of intelligence coming back from the beaches. All they had to go on was fragments of radio messages intermittently returning to the destroyers' communications.

One of these messages led to an unplanned move as Roberts changed tactics, ordering the reserve Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal to enter the fray. The hastily arranged action was now changed to moving through the town and attacking the east headland battery of German positions. The rushed brief naturally caused confusion in the ranks and the reinforcements had next-to-no effect on the outcome of the raid. A withdrawal of the Allied regiments was ordered as the clock struck 11am.

Cutting losses

The evacuation lasted for three hours as the Royal Navy struggled to withdraw its

“NOT ALL OF THE CONFLICT WAS ON THE BEACHES. SOME PLATOONS MADE IT TO THE TOWN CENTRE, WHERE THEY ENGAGED IN VICIOUS STREET-TO-STREET FIGHTING”

Great Battles

DIEPPE RAID

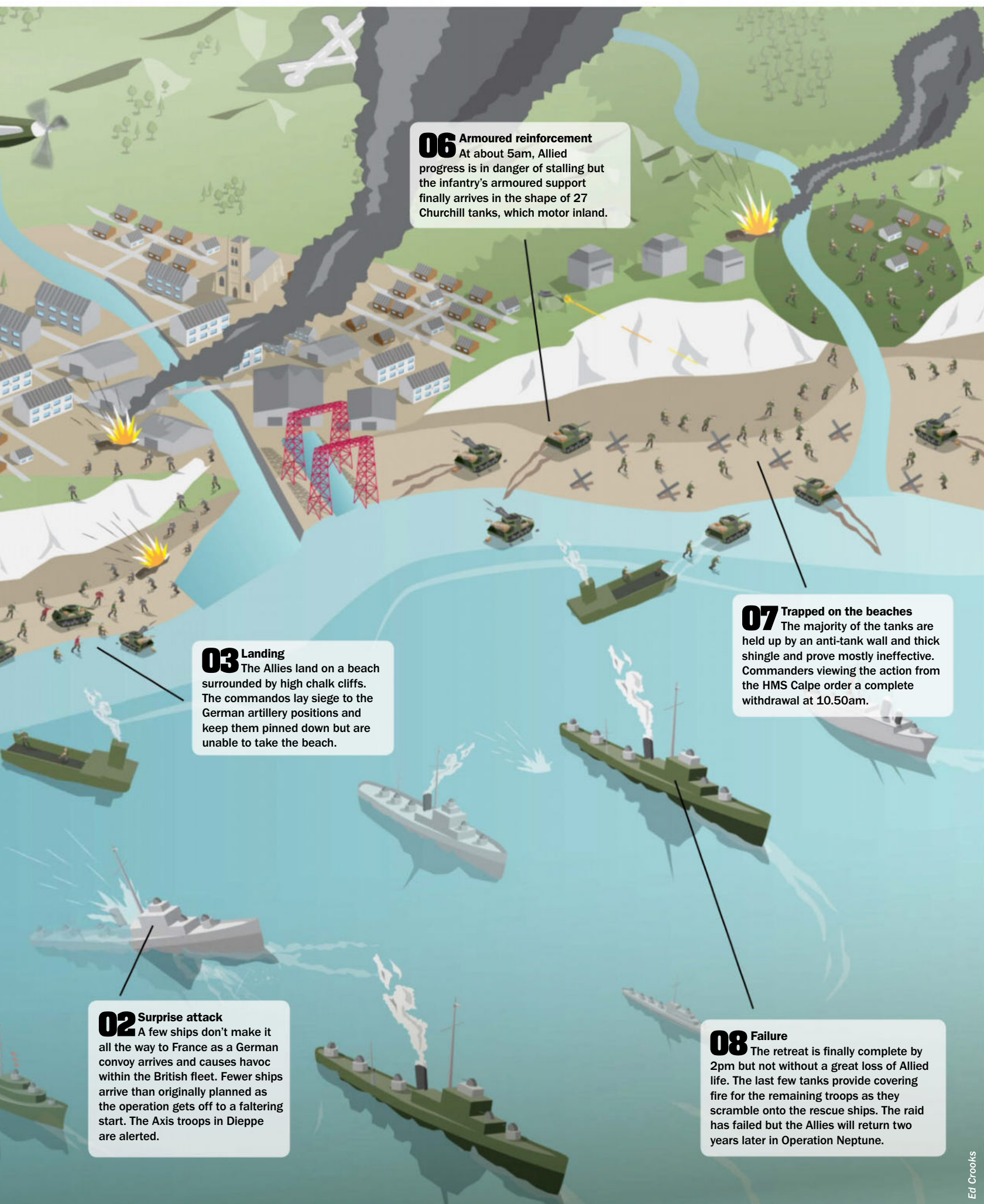
19 AUGUST 1942



04 Unplanned retreat
Canadian and Scottish forces land on the west coast at Puits while another Canadian force drops down at Pourville to the east. After brutal fighting, the disorganised waves of troops are beaten back and request extraction.

05 Failed evacuation
Under immense German fire, the rescue craft are unable to access the beaches and the forces at Puits are either killed or captured while trying to retreat.

01 Arrival
252 Allied ships arrive on the seas off the port of Dieppe under the cover of nightfall shortly before 3am. They sail in near silence behind minesweepers that clear the way to France. Troops are deployed at five different points over a 16km (10-mile) stretch of beach.



06 Armoured reinforcement
At about 5am, Allied progress is in danger of stalling but the infantry's armoured support finally arrives in the shape of 27 Churchill tanks, which motor inland.

03 Landing
The Allies land on a beach surrounded by high chalk cliffs. The commandos lay siege to the German artillery positions and keep them pinned down but are unable to take the beach.

07 Trapped on the beaches
The majority of the tanks are held up by an anti-tank wall and thick shingle and prove mostly ineffective. Commanders viewing the action from the HMS Calpe order a complete withdrawal at 10.50am.

02 Surprise attack
A few ships don't make it all the way to France as a German convoy arrives and causes havoc within the British fleet. Fewer ships arrive than originally planned as the operation gets off to a faltering start. The Axis troops in Dieppe are alerted.

08 Failure
The retreat is finally complete by 2pm but not without a great loss of Allied life. The last few tanks provide covering fire for the remaining troops as they scramble onto the rescue ships. The raid has failed but the Allies will return two years later in Operation Neptune.

The number of POWs was staggering, with more than 2,000 captured and sent to Nazi prisoner of war camps



“THE DEBACLE MADE HEADLINES AROUND THE WORLD AND THE CANADIAN PUBLIC WAS SHOCKED AT THE FAILURE AND LOSS OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN IN THE 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION”

troops while under attack from the relentless Wehrmacht and Luftwaffe. Unable to move, the remaining operational Churchill tanks provided covering fire for the retreating soldiers as the infantry withdrew. After their job was done, the crews were pulled from their tanks by the Germans and taken prisoner. Even the four destroyers, Calpe, Fernie, Berkeley and Albrighton, failed to keep the Germans at bay, their four-inch guns weaker than the onslaught coming from the land. Despite their best efforts, in nine hours a total of 3,367

Canadians were killed, wounded or taken prisoner along with 275 British commandos.

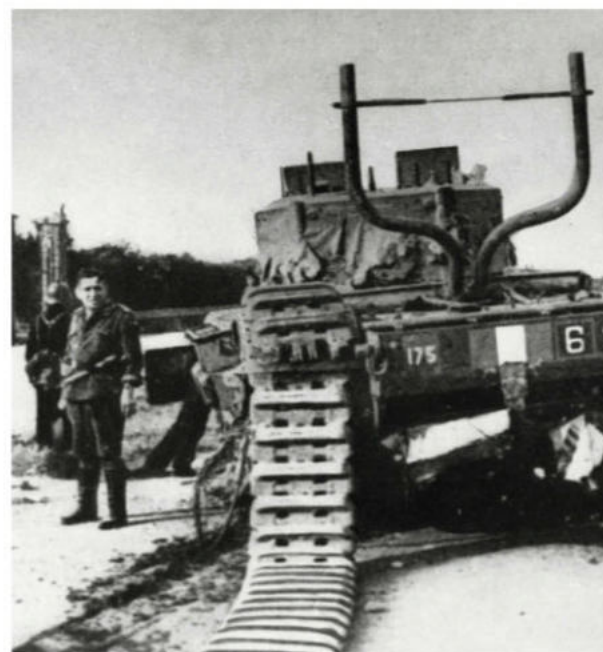
Overall, 4,384 were killed or wounded – 73 per cent of the force. One destroyer was lost (HMS Berkeley) and 550 perished in the ranks of the Royal Navy. The RAF saw 106 aircraft downed to the Luftwaffe's 48. The planes lost by the RAF were the most lost in one day during the whole war. The death toll for the Germans was much lower, at 591; they also claimed all of the Allied equipment left on the beaches. Luckily, the Axis soldiers held their positions

and did not pursue the convoy into the Channel. Tragically, the injured left on the beach after the evacuation were captured or left to wash away with the dead in the rising tide.

Two Victoria Crosses were given to Canadian troops on the day: honorary Captain JW Foote of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry received a medal for his care of the wounded troops that were strewn across the beaches, while Lieutenant Colonel CCI Merritt was awarded his honours for bravely leading his men over the Pourville Bridge. Both were taken prisoner during the raid.

A costly, but necessary failure

After the dust had settled, the debrief back at HQ revealed what had gone wrong. A combination of poor planning and leadership, not helped by some terrible luck, had doomed



Above: The British tanks were completely unsuitable for the pebble beaches of Normandy and quickly ground to a halt in the shingle

Below: A member of the Wehrmacht's Medical Corps gives a wounded British soldier some much-needed first aid



Operation Jubilee to failure. The debacle made headlines around the world and the Canadian public was shocked at the failure and the loss of their countrymen in the 2nd Infantry Division. The Canadians who didn't perish were sent to the Stalag VIII prisoner of war camp in Poland for the remainder of the war. The conditions here were miserable, with prisoners' hands shackled together and awful treatment from the guards. Even when the war was over, the former prisoners were forced to march west, living off the land, to get beyond the oncoming Iron Curtain.

The failure at Dieppe had a longer-lasting effect than many knew. At HQ, Mountbatten received the lion's share of the criticism, many seeing his lack of preparation as the reason for the mission's failure. The true blame lay at the feet of the chiefs of staff

of all three forces who had acted flippantly to push the landings forward. The most experienced leaders, such as Montgomery and General Sir Alan Brooke, were preoccupied with the North African theatre and it seemed as if the planning for Dieppe was under-cooked, especially as it was left in the hands of the relatively inexperienced Mountbatten.

"MORE THAN 1,000 SOLDIERS LAY DEAD ON THE FRENCH COAST, BUT THE ALLIED HIERARCHY WOULD NOT MAKE THIS MISTAKE AGAIN"

Many were also perplexed as to why the Canadian commanders, whose men were such a huge part of the operation, were not involved in the planning procedure for either the Rutter or Jubilee operations.

More than 1,000 Canadian and British soldiers lay dead on the French coast, but the Allied hierarchy would not make this mistake again. The need for more air support was recognised, specialised landing craft were developed, naval gunfire was upped and intelligence and planning became stricter than ever before. They also planned for better communication and more flexibility in future operations. Essentially, a Plan B was a must.

The failure of the Dieppe Raid was a lesson that had to be learned, and when D-Day was unleashed on Normandy on 6 June 1944, there would be no defeat.

Born into royalty, Gustavus
Adolphus reinvented
himself as an immensely
successful commander
who led from the front





GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS

THE LION WHO SMASHED AN EMPIRE

Both a king and an army general, Gustavus Adolphus was a military game-changer, forging an empire out of his beloved Sweden

WORDS JACK GRIFFITHS

The world of warfare owes a lot to Gustavus Adolphus. A pioneer of innovative and original military tactics, combat was changed forever when he blazed his way south from Scandinavia midway through the bloody conflict that was the Thirty Years' War. His death on the fields of Lützen on 16 November 1632 shocked Europe after he had changed the entire state of play in the war. Considered by Napoleon and many modern military strategists as one of the greatest generals of all time, his influence can be seen in formations and tactics for decades and even centuries after. For instance, John Churchill, the Duke of Marlborough, was using the same tactics 70 years on when Europe was on the

warpath once again in the War of Spanish Succession. Rapid, mobile attacks embodied the successful new approach.

Adolphus sparked a period known as the Golden Age of Sweden and dedicated his life to the battlefield, serving in his country's army from the age of 17 until his untimely death aged just 37. Known as the 'Golden King' and the 'Lion of the North', the king witnessed and participated in a period of religious, political and economic turmoil in Europe, and used it to his advantage. Not only did he save the Protestant cause, he also made Sweden the third biggest nation on the continent and initiated the country's period of 'Stormaktstiden' (Great Power Era).

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS

An artist's impression of Breitenfeld, where Gustavus Adolphus recorded his greatest military victory



Born into Swedish royalty, Gustavus was the eldest son of King Charles IX of the House of Vasa. He was raised in a time of religious and political turmoil, when a Protestant Sweden would play a huge role in the Reformation and Counter-Reformation breaking out in central Europe after the zealous Catholic Ferdinand II acquired the throne of the Holy Roman Empire. Upon his father's death in 1611, the 16-year-old Gustavus assumed command after beating off competition from his cousin, Sigismund III, King of Poland, who had long desired power in Sweden. The country was actually at war with Poland at the time and the new king had to be watchful of his borders right from the start. This grounding as a king, a general and a warrior would hold the young Adolphus in good stead for the rest of his life.

Forging Baltic alliances

Before Sweden could engage itself in the holy war in central Europe, the long-standing feud with Poland had to be settled. An intermittent conflict that had raged for decades, Gustavus was left to pick up the pieces from his father's past quarrels, which had also angered Russia and Denmark. Domestic and international troubles ran through Sweden and the young king had a task on his hands if he were to get the country off its knees and transform it into a great power. Adolphus moved swiftly and the dispute with Denmark was ended with the 1613 Peace of Kanared. Sweden was forced

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS: FROM KING IN WAITING TO EUROPEAN CONQUEROR

HANDED THE THRONE AT THE TENDER AGE OF 16, GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS FACED ADVERSITY FROM THE START



Popular with both the aristocracy and the masses, as well as having good diplomatic skills, Adolphus was one of the greatest leaders of his era

Born in Stockholm on 9 December 1594, Gustavus Adolphus was the first son of King Charles IX of Sweden and his wife Christina of Holstein-Gottorp. A keen student from a young age, he learned a number of languages and has been described as a fine writer and speaker who was physically strong and of a courageous nature. Protestantism had been introduced in Sweden by his grandfather and educated into all classes, from peasants to nobles, by the time the young prince became king.

Gustavus had already served in the military in both Russia and Denmark before his father's death in 1611. The 16-year-old came to the throne in a time of turmoil in his native Sweden. His cousin Sigismund III of Poland desired the throne for himself and put constant pressure on the young king. Worse still, Gustavus had to pick up the pieces of his father's poor relations with Denmark and Russia. He also had to solve the domestic issues and friction between the aristocracy and people at the time. A nation under threat from every direction, Adolphus still found time to marry Maria Eleonora of Brandenburg in 1620. Despite having both domestic and international disputes, the king managed to stay on the throne for 21 years in an era dominated by the Thirty Years' War, one of the deadliest conflicts of all time.

THE GENIUS OF GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS

THE TACTICS AND STRATEGIES THAT MADE THE SWEDES THE MOST FEARED ARMY OF THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR

INFANTRY, CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY

Gustavus Adolphus was one of the first to successfully combine the use of the three parts of a 17th-century army effectively. By using light, mobile artillery with flexible formations, his forces could unleash surprise shock attacks with ease.

ACCURACY AND SPEED

Swedish musketeers were renowned for their accuracy, and the fast-moving Swedish infantry frequently caught their opponents off-guard. The other armies of Europe were still using inflexible tercio and pike-and-shot tactics, which were often too rigid and slow against Adolphus's troops.

TECHNICAL CHANGES

The Swedish army of this era is attributed with a number of inventions and developments – paper bullet cartridges, abolishing musket rests, light mobile artillery and volley fire as well as administrative reforms and an improvement of military logistics.

COMBINING FORCES

All of the various Swedish regiments complemented one another in battle to great effect. Prior to a cavalry charge, artillery

Above: Longer than an arquebus, a lighter musket was introduced by the Swedes that still packed the same punch

and musketeers would fire to clear the path for the cavalry, which would then destroy the remaining enemy.

A NEW PIKE AND SHOT

Unlike other leaders of the day, Gustavus favoured whole regiments of musketeers supported by a thin wall of pikes. The pikemen protected the musketeers while they picked off enemy soldiers. Every soldier was cross-trained to be able to use any weapon or firearm in battle.

Left: Tactics developed by Gustavus Adolphus can still be seen in use across the world today



The king's Hjullåskarbin (wheel-lock carbine) from the war. A smoothbore steel barrel, the design was the first type of self-igniting firearm ever invented

to give up its only port in the North Sea, Älvsborg, as compensation for two years of war, but the nation now had one less enemy on its doorstep. Poland was still a threat, however, and the only way to deter Sigismund and his fifth column's attempts at seizing the Swedish throne was to fight them back with force.

In order to concentrate solely on Poland and avoid engaging the Russian military, Adolphus made peace with Russia in 1617 under the Peace of Stolbova. A stunningly shrewd move, the treaty allowed Sweden to annex large areas of modern-day Finland and Estonia. Now with no presence in the Baltic Sea, Russia could not unleash its naval potential and Gustavus's deal inadvertently knocked the Russians out of the forthcoming Thirty Years' War. The treaty also helped the Swedes focus on Poland as they captured the key cities of Riga, Memel, Pillau and Elbing in Polish Prussia. Adolphus's excellent foreign policy also prevented Poland from taking the Russian throne and increased his stock significantly with the nobles in

Sweden. With confidence from the start, the king could wield more power in his later wars.

Turning back to domestic issues, he pulled off another masterstroke in the state, meeting the needs of both the aristocracy and the people through a series of reforms that oversaw the creation of a supreme court, a treasury and a war office. The first central bank in the world, Riksbanken was the brainchild of Adolphus and stands to this day. Sweden was modernising, and after the 1634 Form of Government, it had a central administration more efficient than any other European country. Vast immigration was one of Adolphus's greatest gifts to Sweden; swathes of experts boosted the nation's intelligentsia and hordes of soldiers swelled its new-found military might.

A devout Protestant from birth, the king has come to be known as the 'Protector of Protestantism' by many. While battling Poland, he always had one eye on the war in central Europe. Hearing word of the Catholic Habsburg armies sweeping through Protestant Germany, he ended the long war with Poland in the 1629 Treaty of Altmark. With Russia already out of the picture, Sweden controlled the Baltic and was ready to rise against the renewed growth of Catholicism in Europe.

The Counter-Reformation didn't see the Lion of the North coming, as his 4,000-strong

army landed in Peenemünde, Denmark, in the summer of 1630. It began its assault south, joined as allies of convenience with Christian IV's Danish forces, to turn the tide of the war.

The Swedish surge south

The Swedish march south was swift. Capturing Brandenburg and other areas of northern Germany, the Swedish army was well equipped, fed and watered, and ready to push further south. A supply system, bolstered by a treaty of no-conflict with the French signed by Cardinal Richelieu, turned the tables on Ferdinand II's Imperial Catholic armies as Adolphus set out his stall. If Germany was protected, Sweden would be protected. By 1631, the majority of northern

“WITH RUSSIA ALREADY OUT OF THE PICTURE, SWEDEN CONTROLLED THE BALTIC AND WAS READY TO RISE AGAINST THE RENEWED GROWTH OF CATHOLICISM IN EUROPE”

and central Germany was under Gustavus's control. The Swedish king's ultimate plan was to establish a Corpus Evangelicorum (Protestant League) to rival the Catholic version, with himself at the helm as military and political director.

The leaders of the protestant German states were far too ineffectual to become heads of the Protestant League themselves, but Adolphus had to tread carefully – if he pushed his desire for a league too far, it could be interpreted as a push for the crown of the Holy Roman Empire, which would alienate him from his new allies John George of Saxony and George William of Brandenburg. Their alliance was key – if they joined the Catholics in favour of Pan-Germanism, the Swedes would have to fight two forces, and that would have been too much even for the master tactician Adolphus.

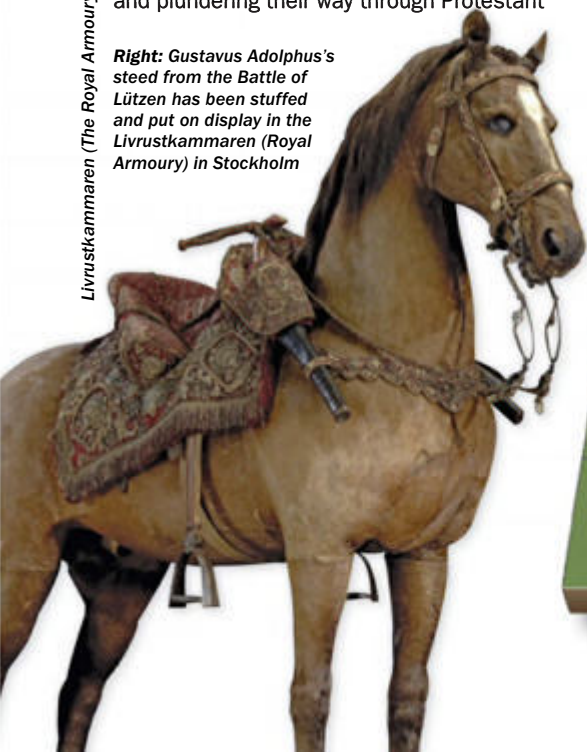
Taking the crown of the Holy Roman Empire wasn't on the king's agenda. Religion was everything to the man and was over and above politics and personal gain. Stories from the era describe Gustavus insisting on regular prayer sessions in the military. He didn't allow any profanity in the ranks and his speech was filled with quotations from holy texts. Despite his dedication to his faith, Adolphus was a pragmatic negotiator and struck a good deal with many leaders, even the Catholic Richelieu.

Away from religion, the warrior king wasn't just an astute tactician, he could often be seen with his men digging trenches and building fortifications in the frontline. He didn't shy away from disciplining his soldiers though. In his famous articles of war, or *Swedish Discipline Of 1632*, it is noted that falling asleep, being drunk on duty or blasphemy was punishable by death. He also prevented his soldiers from stealing produce in the areas they'd invaded and forced them to pay the locals for it.

His dedication to the cause also put him in the line of fire and he picked up many injuries on the battlefield. A musketball was lodged in his neck near the spine and because of the pain he didn't wear the customary two-part metal cuirass, favouring flexible leather armour instead. Of course, this didn't stop him from taking to the frontline time and again.

Meanwhile, the Catholics were still pillaging and plundering their way through Protestant

Right: Gustavus Adolphus's steed from the Battle of Lützen has been stuffed and put on display in the Livrustkammaren (Royal Armoury) in Stockholm



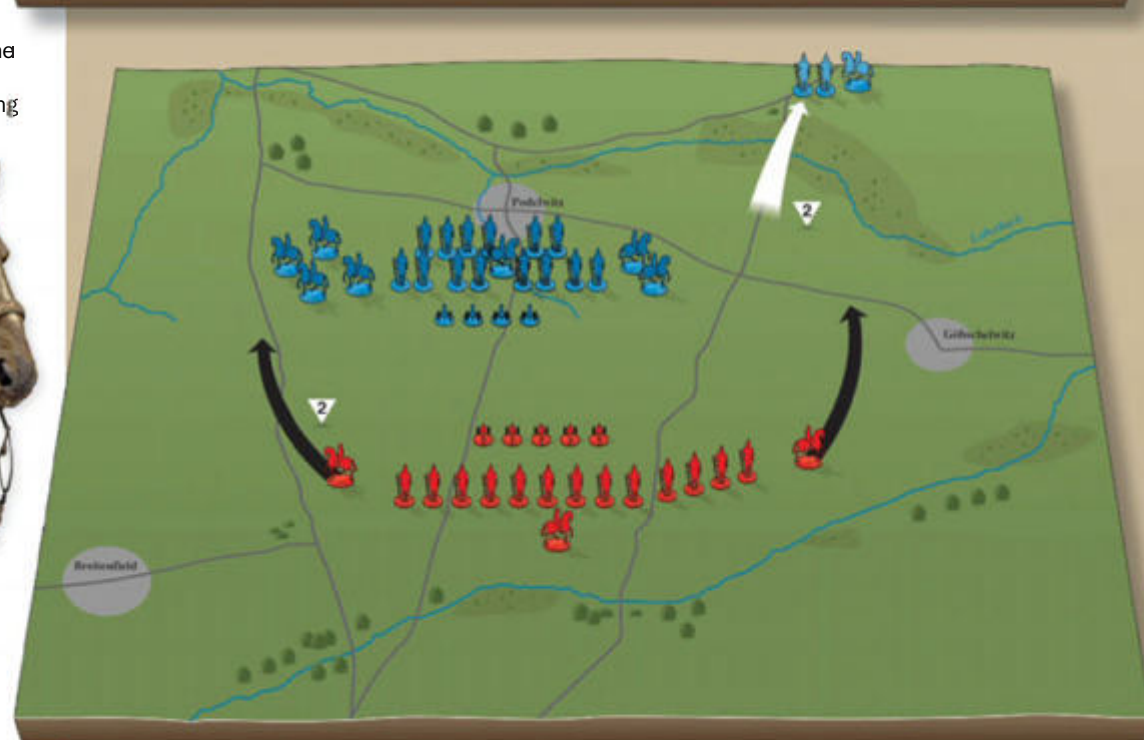
THE BATTLE OF BREITENFELD

17 SEPTEMBER 1631

MORE THAN 50,000 TROOPS LINED UP ON THE BATTLEFIELD AS ADOLPHUS MET HIS GREATEST TEST OF THE WAR SO FAR

The Battle of Breitenfeld was a military masterclass. Burdened with an inexperienced Saxon division, the Swedes and their king were up against an all-conquering Imperial Army led by an experienced commander Johann Tserclaes, Count of Tilly. By practising what

he preached, Gustavus Adolphus completely outmanoeuvred the static Imperial line and, in one of the war's boldest moves, turned their own artillery against them. The battle was won and Leipzig, as well as the road to Bavaria, was there for the taking. Gustavus Adolphus had become the most powerful man in Germany.



“TILLY’S OVERCONFIDENCE AFTER ROUTING THE SAXONS LEAVES HIS ARTILLERY BATTERY UNPROTECTED. THE SWEDISH CAVALRY CAPTURE THE DEFENCELESS CANNONS AND TURN THEM TO FIRE ON THE REAR OF THE IMPERIAL INFANTRY”

01 First strikes

Artillery bombardments begin the battle but the conflict soon changes as the Imperial cavalry rush at the Swedish-Saxon lines. The Black Cuirassiers are driven back by the steadfast Swedes but break through against the inexperienced Saxons.

02 Building on early successes

Reeling after the cavalry charge, the Saxons are already in retreat. Tilly capitalises on this weakness and directs his troops to the vulnerable left side of the Protestant flanks.

03 Gustavus’s response

Watching the Saxons flee doesn’t shake the Swedish resolve as second in command Gustav Horn rides to meet the Imperial threat. Meanwhile, Gustavus leads his cavalry to attack the opposite (left) flank of the Catholics.

04 Artillery capture

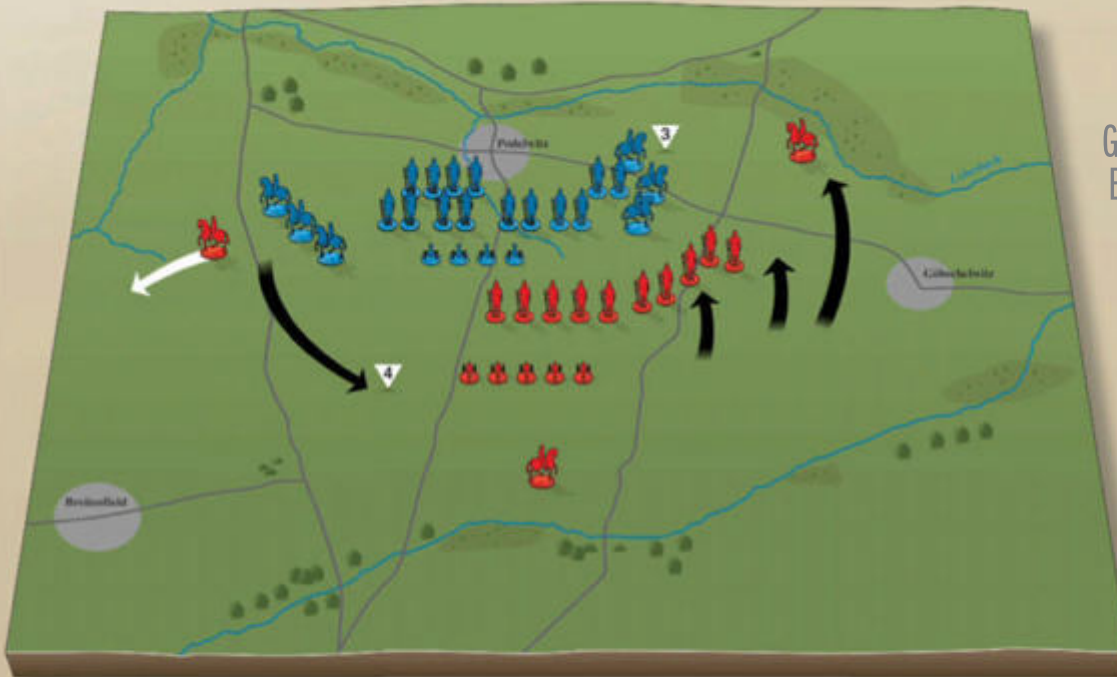
Tilly’s overconfidence after routing the Saxons leaves his artillery battery unprotected. The Swedish cavalry capture the defenceless cannons and turn them to fire on the rear of the Imperial infantry.

05 Massacre on two fronts

After being unable to break through Horn’s line, Tilly’s Imperial troops are attacked from all directions for a number of hours until they are forced into a hurried retreat.

06 Retreat to Leipzig

Only four Imperial regiments make it back to the safety of Leipzig as soldiers, equipment and weapons are left strewn across the battlefield. Tactical genius has prevailed and the Swedes are now a force to be reckoned with in war-torn Europe.



IMPERIAL

JOHANN TSEERCLAES, COUNT OF TILLY
GOTTFRIED HEINRICH GRAF ZU PAPPENHEIM
EGON VIII OF FÜRSTENBERG-HEILIGENBERG

21,400 INFANTRY
10,000 CAVALRY
27 GUNS

VS

SWEDES & SAXONS

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS
JOHANN GEORG
GUSTAV HORN
JOHAN BANER

27,800 INFANTRY
13,200 CAVALRY
75 GUNS

CASUALTIES

SWEDES AND SAXONS
3,000 (7%)
IMPERIAL
13,000 (41%)

THE SOLDIERS OF GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS'S ARMY

THE SWEDISH ARMY WAS MADE UP OF INFANTRY, CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY TO FORM AN EFFECTIVE AND COHESIVE FIGHTING FORCE

Gustavus Adolphus's reign centred on the military, so much so that five sevenths of the country's budget went on the armed forces. This was paid for by heavy taxation, but the people were happy to part with their money, as the House of Vasa was consistently popular during his reign.

ARMOUR

Swedish troops were more lightly armoured than the majority of other soldiers to fit in with Adolphus's strategy of quick and mobile attacks.

CROSS TRAINING

Every one of Adolphus's troops was trained to wield all weapons. If a musketeer was disarmed he could pick up a pike and continue the battle and vice-versa.

FIREARM EXPERTISE

The Swedish musketeers used a combination of muskets and arquebuses on the battlefield. They were so well trained that they could reload up to three times faster than their enemies.

FIREARM TECHNOLOGY

The Swedes developed a lighter musket so they did not use a rest. Imperial armies used square formations but Swedish musketeers lined up alongside a protective wall of pikemen.

HOLDING RANK

Using a smaller and thinner line than their adversaries, the Swedish musketeers were instructed to fire in consistent volleys. This could break an enemy cavalry charge and the tactic was used in both attack and defence.

CONSCRIPTION

The Swedish armies of the Thirty Years' War were conscripted. Every tenth man was taken for military service with 40,000 Swedes fighting in the war alongside the same amount of mercenaries.

"ADOLPHUS REASONED THAT THE IDEA OF STATIC LINES BASED ON DEFENCE WAS DATED, AND INSTEAD A TRIPLE SALVO OF INFANTRY, CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR THE ENEMY TO HANDLE"

Europe under the leadership of Johann Tserclaes, Count of Tilly. The siege and subsequent burning of Magdeburg, an historical centre of the Protestant faith, aggravated the Protestant cause. Tilly and his followers had killed 20,000 civilians, who perished in the siege's inferno, during the devastating raid. In response, the Swedes took Berlin and Mecklenburg after being bolstered by new Dutch recruits. Many now saw Adolphus as the master of Germany, but he had not yet faced off against Tilly and the Imperial Army. This would soon change on the fields of Breitenfeld.

The Battle of Breitenfeld

Throughout the campaign, the Swedes sought the alliance of the Saxon army to boost their numbers. Led by John George of Saxony, they were initially reluctant to join the cause but changed their minds after Tilly and his Imperial troops continued to pillage their lands. 18,000 Saxons took up arms and joined 24,000 Swedes and mercenaries on the battlefield against nearly 35,000 Catholics.

Breitenfeld was the ideal opportunity for Adolphus to put his innovative tactics to use. After rigorous study of battle formations, he reasoned that the idea of static lines based on defence was dated, and instead a triple salvo of infantry, cavalry and artillery would be too much for the enemy to handle. The king's strategy was simple – attack, attack, attack. As only 20 per cent of his forces were Swedish, he had to ensure that his mercenaries were well drilled in the strategies that he promoted.

Tilly, meanwhile, had plans of his own. Identifying the Saxons as the weak link of the Protestant forces, he launched the full fury of his Black Cuirassiers at John George's lines. This proved to be an excellent decision, as the poorly organised soldiers from Saxony were easily crushed. On the other flank, the Swedes stood firm against the onslaught and, as more Imperial troops poured into the gap left by the Saxons, a small force managed to break through the Catholic defences. The battle was at a crucial point. Could Adolphus's troops make enough progress on the right flank before Tilly's forces on the opposite side struck the remainder of his divisions with their full force?

The Swedes battled hard and made their way forward, eventually capturing the now sparsely defended Imperial artillery pieces. While the rest of the Swedes held their lines, the full force of the enemy artillery was turned on their former masters. This created an expert pincer movement, with the Imperial troops, who were initially in the ascendancy but fell foul to their slow tercio formation, caught in a brutal crossfire, with cannon fire blasting them from one side and cold steel taking them down on the other. The battle was lost for the Imperial and Catholic armies as Tilly made a hasty escape. In victory, Adolphus dished out lands to allied generals to further extinguish the notion that his power was becoming too great.

Conquering the cities of Bavaria

After Breitenfeld, Adolphus and the Swedish army wasted no time and were on the march once again, with Bavaria now their target. Tilly was finally defeated at the Battle of Lech in April 1632, a decisive Swedish victory.

THE LION ROARS THROUGH EUROPE

FROM STOCKHOLM TO LÜTZEN:
THE ROUTE OF THE SWEDES
THROUGH EUROPE



01 PEENEMÜNDE

Arriving in June 1630, 4,000 Swedes land and swiftly make alliances with the local militia to attract mercenaries and bolster their ranks.

02 BREITENFELD 17TH SEPTEMBER 1631

The Battle of Breitenfeld is the first major test for the Swedes against the strong Imperial Army led by the Count of Tilly. The result is an emphatic victory for Adolphus, who utilises his innovative tactics to devastating effect.

03 FIGHTING THROUGH GERMANY

For the next year, Gustavus Adolphus achieves a period of great success taking the cities of Munich, Augsburg, Würzburg and Bamberg. The Swedes are later forced to turn back on the road to Vienna to help their Saxon allies.

04 LÜTZEN 16 NOVEMBER 1632

After a series of victories, the Swedes meet the Catholic League once again at Lützen. Despite emerging victorious, their king falls on the battlefield and the Swedish war effort begins to falter.

05 NÖRDLINGEN 5 SEPTEMBER 1634

Now under the leadership of Gustav Horn, the Swedish army has an unfocused few years on the continent with both victories and defeats. Their conquest comes to an end with a shattering defeat at Nördlingen.

06 STOCKHOLM

Jaded by contest fighting and in particular the bloody battle of Jankov, the Swedes retreat home as the war comes to an end. Sweden will now enjoy a century of control in the Baltic.

PROTESTANTS

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS
BERNHARD OF SAXE-WEIMAR
DODO KNYPHAUSEN

12,800 INFANTRY
6,200 CAVALRY
60 GUNS

THE BATTLE OF LÜTZEN

16 NOVEMBER 1632

MORE THAN A YEAR ON FROM BREITENFELD AND THE
IMPERIAL ARMY HAD RETURNED, HUNGRY FOR REVENGE

As the winter of 1632 reached its coldest stages, the Catholic forces led by Albrecht von Wallenstein decided to conclude operations for the year to shelter from the cold. This tactic was never on the mind of Adolphus, who engaged the full Catholic force. The Swedes initially gained the upper hand but hit a snag when more than 2,000 reinforcements led by Imperial Field Marshal Pappenheim stemmed the tide. Gustavus led a risky charge into the fray at about 1pm and paid for it with his life. As their king was struck down, the Swedish forces rallied to victory but after the battle was over, they mourned their lost leader.

Gustavus always fought on the frontline with his men, but at Lützen the king's luck finally ran out

The great Imperial leader was wounded by a cannonball blow and did not recover, succumbing to his wounds ten days later. The Catholic League had lost one of its most experienced generals and the momentum was now with Gustavus, who duly took a number of cities and towns including

Bamberg, Würzburg, Munich and Augsburg. The Saxons continued the series of Protestant takeovers when they marched into Prague.

The Swedes were seemingly unstoppable, but it was here that the march south began to run out of steam. After failing to take Regensburg, King Adolphus received word that his Saxon allies had been defeated and driven out of Prague. He had no choice but to drive back north, postponing his march to Vienna. The Saxons and John George needed aid, as the Swedes could not risk their allies being routed, or worse, joining the Catholic cause.

It was also at this time that the ever-confident Adolphus released his plans for two new Protestant Leagues: the Corpus Bellicum, which would be responsible for military affairs, and the Corpus Evangelicorum, which would handle civil administration. If successful, this would confirm the security of Protestant states on German lands for the foreseeable future. It would also allow Sweden to retain the lands it had so painstakingly conquered over the years of the war, but this could only work if the

military successes kept coming. Lützen would change all that.

Tilly may have been a distant memory, but the Holy Roman Empire had a new hero it could rely on: a Bohemian statesman by the name of Albrecht von Wallenstein. Having finally proved his worth to Ferdinand II after a series of missteps, Wallenstein was now the undisputed leader of the empire's armies and would face off against the Swedes in November 1632 at the Battle of Lützen.

The road to Lützen

The once unbeatable Swedish Army was not in the best of places in the final months of 1632. A failed attack on the fortified camp Alte Feste resulted in many of the mercenaries in the Swedish force abandoning the army. With the Swedes reeling from and re-evaluating the desertion, Wallenstein marched into Saxony and captured Leipzig with no resistance. The attack and occupation of the city was designed for one reason and one reason alone – to provoke the Swedish into raising arms. A war

The muddied and torn shirt worn by Gustavus Adolphus during the Battle of Lützen

Livrustkammaren (The Royal Armoury) / Göran Schmidt / CC BY-SA

CATHOLICS

ALBRECHT VON WALLENSTEIN

GOTTFRIED ZU PAPPENHEIM

HEINRICH HOLCK

13,000 INFANTRY

9,000 CAVALRY

24 GUNS



of manoeuvre began with both armies tracking each other for weeks. Eventually, the Swedes spotted their enemy in the fields near Lützen, about 20 kilometres (12.5 miles) south west of the city limits of Leipzig. There was a chance for a surprise attack, but the Swedes missed this window of opportunity as the cold mist of the winter morning dispersed rapidly to reveal a layer of golden sunshine on the battlefield.

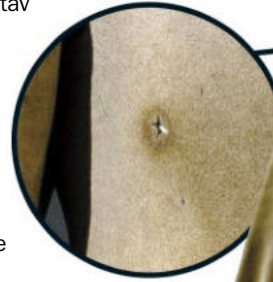
Now on equal footing, the battle took place and raged fiercely all day and into the night. It was in this battle that the mighty Gustavus Adolphus would meet his end. A general who couldn't help but keep away from the melee of the frontline, the king was leading a cavalry charge on the right flank when he became separated from his men. In the resulting brawl, he was temporarily blinded by gunpowder smoke and hit by a hail of gunfire. His fate was unknown until his horse emerged, riderless, from the fray. Word spread like wildfire through the ranks and the loss incensed the Swedes, who piled into the Imperial Army with a desire to avenge their fallen leader. Without Adolphus,

the Protestants were led by Bernhard of Saxe-Weimar and scored a valuable victory as the Sun set. However, with their charismatic leader now gone and 15,000 of their own dead in the dirt, for the Swedes it was a hollow victory.

Legacy of the lion

Gustavus Adolphus died that winter's day as a man still chasing the final victory to which he had dedicated his life. Nonetheless, spurred on by the grace of God, he had secured the borders of his country, spread his faith throughout Europe and redefined military doctrine.

Without the Lion of the North, the Swedish cause in Europe soon dissipated and the war effort faltered. The fighting went on for 16 more years but the Swedes in particular never regained their focus, and after a disastrous loss at Nördlingen in 1634, lost all momentum. Adolphus's deputy, Gustav Horn, assumed joint leadership of the army but made a huge tactical error at Nördlingen and was captured. Leaderless again, the Swedes fought on until the war came to an end with the Peace of Westphalia in



Right: Clothing worn by Adolphus at Lützen gives clues to how he fell. A bullet hole is visible on the right of his chest and there are also slash and stab marks

1648. The king had no male heir so his daughter, Christina, ruled after his death, becoming the final monarch from the House of Vasa.

Regarded by many as the archetypal king, he is remembered fondly in his home country, with Gustavus Adolphus Day celebrated every year on the date of his death. Adolphus undoubtedly altered the course of European history and every military general that came after respects the impact he had on warfare.



Livrustkammaren (The Royal Armoury) / CC BY-SA

AFTERMATH AND LEGACY**HOW MUCH DID THE LION OF THE NORTH CHANGE THE STATE OF PLAY IN EUROPE?**

Despite Adolphus's passing, Sweden flourished in the years after the war. The country was the most dominant power in the Baltic right up until the Great Northern War in the early 18th century, when a resurgent Russia under the leadership of Peter the Great began to dominate the region. In the immediate years after the Thirty Years' War, the Heilbronn League was set up to protect Protestant interests in northern Germany. Gustavus had always dreamed of a Protestant coalition to rival the Catholic League, so, even in death, this was a great victory for him and his fellow protestants.

In later centuries, genius tacticians and students of warfare, such as Napoleon and Carl von Clausewitz not only paid testament to the Swedish king's innovations, but openly adopted them in their own campaigns.

The memory of Gustavus Adolphus lives on today with his strategies taught in military science courses and his idea of 'cross-training' still evident in today's militaries across the world. The expansion of Sweden under their warrior king opened its eyes to a world outside the Baltic and helped develop the country into what it is today, economically, socially and politically.

Gustavus would lead his troops in prayer before every battle



Corbis

KHMER ROUGE

WORDS TOM FARRELL

How one of Asia's bloodiest regimes evolved to terrorise generations of its citizens

For the three years, eight months and 20 days of Pol Pot's rule, Cambodia was renamed Democratic Kampuchea. As names of regimes go, this was a truly spectacular inversion of the truth.

Between 1975 and 1979, 'Democratic' Kampuchea was the most isolated nation on Earth. There was no rail, road, telephone or even postal linkage with the world outside its borders. The only way in to the country was a fortnightly flight from Beijing, but in any case, foreigners, bar a few Chinese or North Korean advisers, were not welcome.

Most accounts of what happened in the country since 17 April 1975 came from refugees who had fled to neighbouring Thailand or Vietnam. On that day, Cambodia's civil war ended with a peasant army known as 'les Khmers Rouges' overrunning all government-held towns and ordering their populations to depart for the countryside. The evacuations were at gunpoint; any dissenters were killed.

The refugees' stories seemed so outlandish that many discounted them. They described a once-peaceful Buddhist nation turned into a massive work camp. In the drive towards total self-sufficiency, almost the entire population had been corralled into communal agriculture – planting crops, clearing land or constructing irrigation dykes.

Deportees from the cities, despised by the Khmer Rouge and distrusted by the local peasantry, were dying in droves from disease, malnutrition and overwork. Any failure to meet production quotas was blamed on 'counter-revolutionaries' operating in the pay of unseen 'imperialists'. City dwellers did well to hide their pre-1975 identities. Knowing a foreign language, having soft hands or even wearing glasses could prove to be fatal.

As the adults planted rice, shifted earth and swung hoes for 18 hours out of every day, children were encouraged to spy on their parents. Cambodia's ethnic minorities – the Sino-Khmers, Vietnamese and Muslim Chams – were said to have been exterminated.

Oddly, most refugees fleeing Democratic Kampuchea seemed to know little about the Khmer Rouge leadership. All power, they said, devolved from 'Angkar' (the Organization), the mysterious and omnipresent body that oversaw all rural labour. Its representatives were a few local cadres: at the mass meetings everyone had to attend, these black-clad ideologues spouted rhetoric that blended Maoist-type slogans with racist tirades against Kampuchea's historic enemies, particularly the Vietnamese.

Angkar's control was maintained by illiterate, AK-47-toting teenagers. Its rule was absolute. Its brutality casual and random.

The Killing Fields

Although Vietnam and Cambodia's communists had maintained an alliance since the days of the Indo-China Communist Party in the 1940s, the Khmer cadres had always bitterly resented the assumption that a unified communist Vietnam would treat neighbouring Laos and Cambodia as junior partners within a communist federation.

Even before the military victory of April 1975, Pol Pot orchestrated purges of Khmer Rouge cadres considered too pro-Vietnamese. Once the Americans were gone and their client regimes overthrown, the two governments clashed over disputed land and maritime territories. In particular, the Khmer Rouge coveted an area of southern Vietnam known as Kampuchea Krom (Lower Cambodia).

Border raids slaughtered hundreds of Vietnamese civilians. By December 1978, Vietnam had had enough. A 150,000-strong invasion force, bristling with Soviet and recently discarded American weaponry, stormed into Democratic Kampuchea.

On 7 January 1979, Phnom Penh fell. Over the previous four years, beyond a few deluded leftist ideologues, few in the west had doubted the cruelty and repression of Pol Pot's Cambodia. But with journalists and aid workers allowed to re-enter the country, it quickly became clear that the Vietnamese had toppled a regime far worse than anyone had imagined.

All across Cambodia mass graves were unearthed, filled with the skulls of thousands of men, women and children. The capital remained a ghost town, piled with wreckage, most of its pre-1975 population wiped out.

Extermination sites such as Tuol Sleng and Choeung Ek bore witness to Pol Pot's homicidal paranoia. The surviving population appeared ragged, starving and traumatised. In 1979, the nation of Cambodia seemed the very model of Hell on Earth.

Tightrope neutrality

A decade earlier, many foreign visitors had thought Cambodia to be an earthly paradise. In 1864, the French had incorporated the 'land of the Khmer smile', by then a shrunken remnant of the Angkor civilisation, into their Indo-Chinese Union. In 1953 they departed, leaving the youthful, petulant and entirely shrewd Norodom Sihanouk in power. Having abdicated as monarch, Prince Sihanouk's rule was sometimes



A statue of skulls commemorates the victims killed at Tuol Sleng concentration camp

KEY FIGURES



POL POT (1925-98)

Born Saloth Sar in 1925, Pot was prime minister of Democratic Kampuchea in 1976-79 and general secretary of the communist party of Kampuchea from 1963-81. He was subject to a show trial by his former cadres in the last Khmer Rouge stronghold of Anlong Veng a year before his death.



NORODOM SIHANOUK (1922-2012)

King of Cambodia from 1941 to 1955 and again in 1995 to 2003, he proved a capable and populist ruler, steering Cambodia clear of the Vietnam War until 1970. After the Khmer Rouge took power, he served briefly as a figurehead ruler but by 1976, he was effectively a prisoner in Phnom Penh's Royal Palace.



LON NOL (1913-85)

The pro-American head of Cambodia's military and prime minister in 1966-67 and 1969-71, Lon Nol seized power in March 1970 and declared the Khmer Republic. He was debilitated by a stroke in 1971 and evacuated by the Americans on 1 April 1975, two weeks before the Khmer Rouge captured Phnom Penh. He died in exile in Hawaii.



HENRY KISSINGER (1923-)

National security advisor and later secretary of state in the Nixon and Ford presidencies, the former Harvard academic was instrumental in expanding the Vietnam War into Cambodia, co-ordinating a massive aerial bombing campaign from the US Embassy in Phnom Penh.



RICHARD M. NIXON (1913-94)

The 37th president of the United States was elected in 1968 on a pledge to wind down the Vietnam War, but his decision to send ground troops into Cambodia sparked nationwide campus protests. The most notorious was at Kent State Ohio in May 1970, when the National Guard shot dead four students.



GERALD FORD (1913-2006)

When Nixon resigned over the Watergate scandal in 1974, Vice President Ford assumed office. But by early 1975, there was little public or Congressional sympathy for the crumbling pro-American regimes in South Vietnam and Cambodia. Ford ordered the evacuation of both American embassies shortly before the communist takeover.

“ANGKAR’S CONTROL WAS MAINTAINED BY ILLITERATE, AK-47-TOTING TEENAGERS. ITS RULE WAS ABSOLUTE. ITS BRUTALITY CASUAL AND RANDOM”

TRIGGER POINT

benign, sometimes brutal, but few observers doubted his immense popularity among the Cambodian peasantry. By the mid 1960s, while war engulfed neighbouring Laos and Vietnam, and Thailand languished under a US-backed junta, Cambodia was an island of neutrality.

Many regarded Phnom Penh as Asia's loveliest capital. Nestling behind the teak and bougainvillea trees that lined its boulevards were Buddhist shrines and Parisian-style bistros, opium dens and shuttered villas.

Sihanouk's rule, however, resembled a tightrope act and even he could not ignore the pressure from outside powers seeking to turn Cambodia into another proxy battlefield of the Indo-China War.

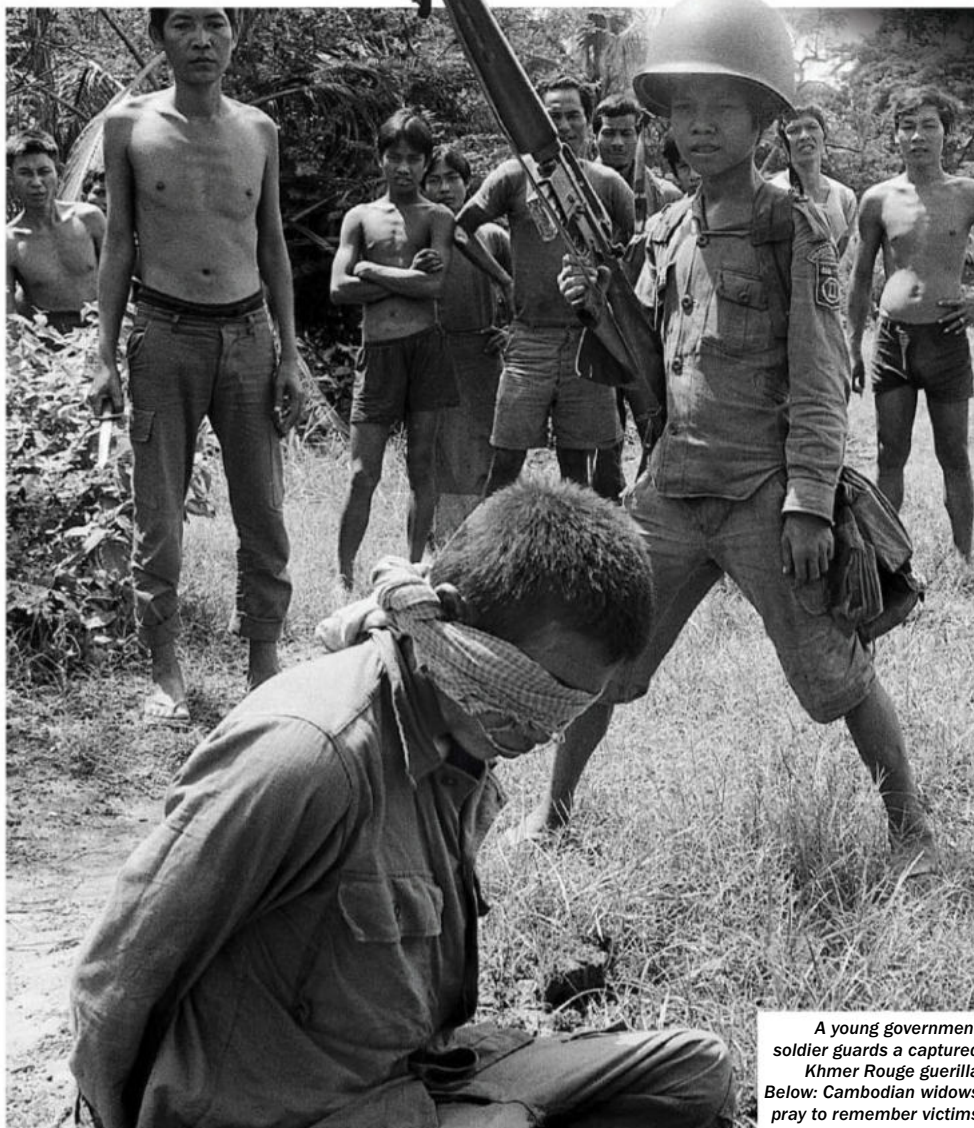
In May 1965, Cambodia had broken off diplomatic relations with the United States and the following year, both the Peoples' Army of Viet Nam (PAVN) and the National Liberation Front – the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong respectively – were allowed use of the port of Kompong Som, also known as Sihanoukville. The Vietnamese also extended their 'Ho Chi Minh Trail', the supply route by which the North Vietnamese army infiltrated South Vietnam, through Cambodia.

This angered not only Washington but also Sihanouk's local rivals on the right. His pro-American defence minister General Lon Nol had been allowed to crack down on urban left-wing groups. In March 1967, while Sihanouk was overseas, Lon Nol had distinguished himself by his brutality while suppressing a rebellion in the western Battambang province, sparked by discontent over the taxing of the peasantry.

The so-called Samlaut uprising polarised left-right divisions in Cambodia. A year later, the so-called Khmer Krohom (Red Khmer, later known as Khmer Rouge) launched their first military attack. They had begun as the Communist Party of Kampuchea on 30 September 1960, when nearly two dozen men and women, most of them middle class and Paris educated, had secretly met within Phnom Penh's radio station.

After the original Central Committee leader died in suspicious circumstances in 1963, the leadership passed to a 35-year-old teacher, a dropout from the Sorbonne named Saloth Sar. Later, he changed his name to Pol Pot.

The Khmer Rouge established bases in the north, north east and south west, swelling their ranks with recruits from among the tribal minorities who bore a historic resentment towards the westernised Cambodians of the towns. After 1967, several prominent intellectuals had defected from Phnom Penh to join. Even so, the Khmer guerrillas remained a marginal force during the 1960s.



A young government soldier guards a captured Khmer Rouge guerilla
Below: Cambodian widows pray to remember victims

Secret bombings

By 1969, under increased right-wing pressure in Phnom Penh's National Assembly and facing a communist insurgency in the north east, Prince Sihanouk was wobbling on his tightrope.

Making the case for Cambodian neutrality, he nonetheless began to tilt back towards Washington, where Richard Nixon had won the presidential election on a promise to wind down an unpopular war. Formal relations were restored on 11 May 1969, a month after the US Air Force had begun bombing raids in the 'Fishhook' area of eastern Cambodia, aimed at dislodging the Vietnamese communists.

If the US imagined that the overthrow of Sihanouk by a right-wing coup during a visit



1864

FRANCE IMPOSES PROTECTORATE

The Kingdom of Cambodia is absorbed into the Indo-China Union. Border demarcations on land and sea are biased in favour of Vietnam, leading to disputes after independence.

1953

SIHANOUK GAINS INDEPENDENCE

Crowned king in 1941, Prince Sihanouk gains independence from France. The following year's Geneva Conference recognises the neutrality of Cambodia. Sihanouk subsequently abdicates in favour of his father.

1967

PEASANT UPRISING CRUSHED

Sihanouk's forces quell a left-wing revolt in Battambang province. Left-wing intellectuals flee Phnom Penh to join 'les Khmers Rouges', who are establishing liberated zones in the jungles.



1969

AMERICAN BOMBINGS BEGIN

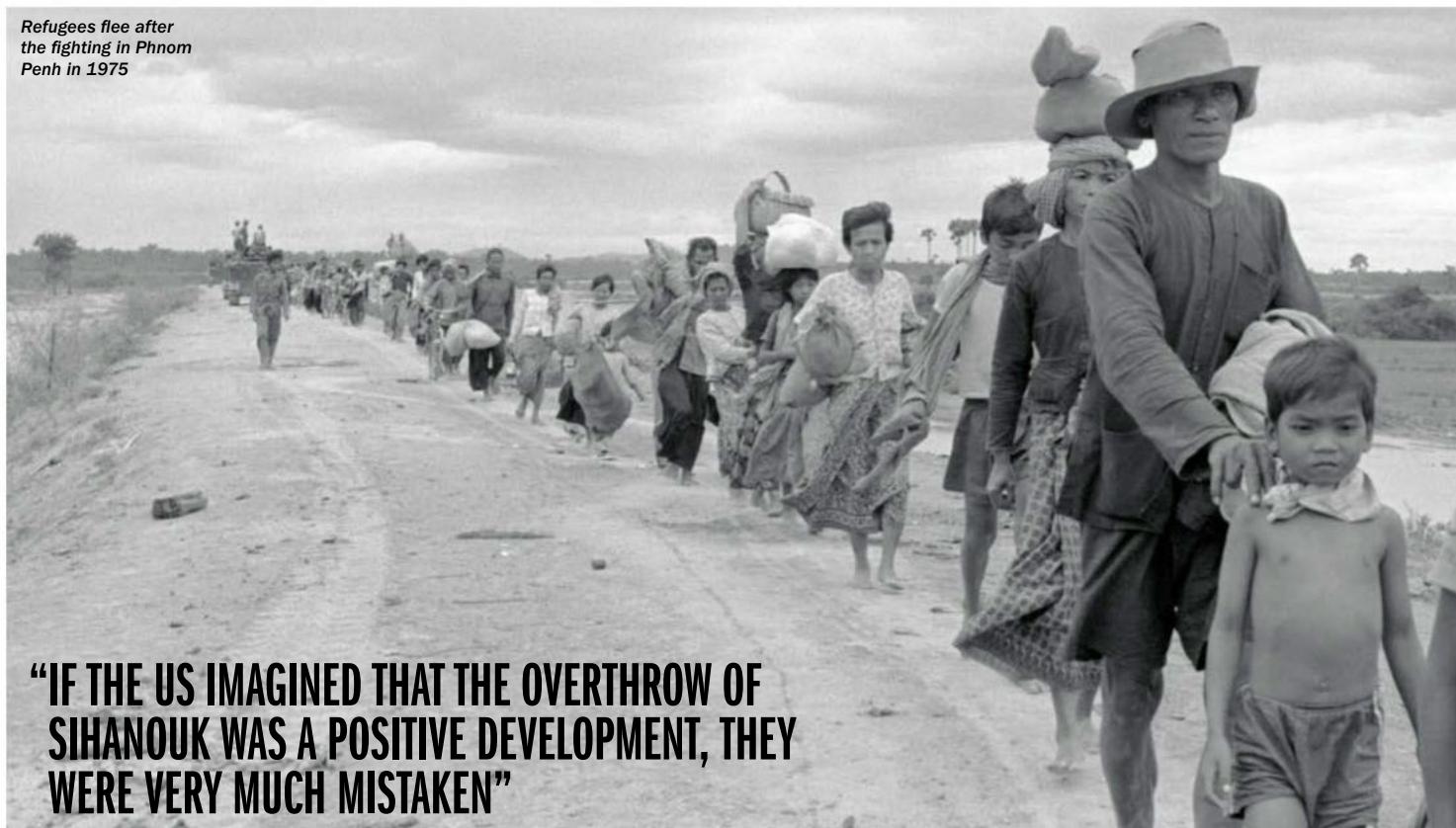
At the request of General Creighton Abrams, commander of US forces, Vietnam, President Nixon approves B-52 strikes against Base Area 353 in eastern Cambodia, a reputed Communist stronghold.

1970

SIHANOUK OVERTHROWN

Norodom Sihanouk is deposed in a pro-American coup by his prime minister Lon Nol and royal rival Prince Sirik Matak. He announces the formation of a National United Front of Kampuchea that includes the Khmer Rouge.

Refugees flee after
the fighting in Phnom
Penh in 1975



“IF THE US IMAGINED THAT THE OVERTHROW OF SIHANOUK WAS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, THEY WERE VERY MUCH MISTAKEN”

to Moscow on 18 May 1970 was a positive development, they were very much mistaken.

Cambodia's new leader turned out to be a man with a limited capacity for leadership but a vast one for corruption. Intensely religious and superstitious, Lon Nol regarded the newly dawning civil war as an anti-communist crusade: accordingly, soldiers in the Forces Armées Nationales Khmères (FANK) were issued with Buddhist amulets when going into battle.

But his piety did not prevent him whipping up anti-Vietnamese sentiment, sending his troops to massacre hundreds of innocent ethnic Vietnamese in outlying towns and dumping their bodies in the River Mekong. As massive amounts of US aid began pouring in, his officers pocketed the salaries of 'phantom' battalions.

Lon Nol's immediate action was to invite US troops into Cambodia to take on the Vietnamese communists. In May-June 1970, they clashed with Vietnamese forces in eastern Cambodia with tactical air support.

But the US bombings only forced the PAVN further west. Phnom Penh began to fill with shantytowns as refugees fled the fighting.

For most of 1970-73, FANK clashed mostly with the PAVN. Between August 1970 and

February 1971, the Cambodians launched the unsuccessful Operation Chenla I with South Vietnamese support, tasked with reconnecting the towns of Skoun and Kampong Cham. Chenla II, an attempt to relieve the besieged town of Kampong Thom by clearing Route Six on the road to Angkor Wat, was an even bigger disaster.

Badly led and overextended, up to ten FANK battalions were destroyed by the Vietnamese communists. From then on, Lon Nol's forces in Cambodia would fight an entirely defensive war, holding only a few larger towns and shrinking tracts of countryside.

Sideshow war

The 1970 coup had been a disaster for another reason. From being a left-leaning neutralist tentatively holding an olive branch to Washington, Sihanouk transformed into Pol Pot's front man. Resurfacing in China a week after Lon Nol's coup, the prince announced the formation of a government in exile, a coalition that included the Khmer Rouge.

To the loyal peasantry, the name of Sihanouk allayed any suspicion they might have had towards Cambodia's communists. And as B-52 bombing raids continued to kill thousands,

the Khmer Rouge could capitalise on the fury peasants felt towards the Americans and their 'puppet clique' in Phnom Penh.

By 1972, with the Vietnamese still doing most of the fighting, the Khmer Rouge consolidated their control of much of the countryside and began a societal transformation. Agriculture was collectivised and Buddhist monks set to work in the fields. This would soon provide a blueprint for the entire country.

In January 1973, Henry Kissinger and his North Vietnamese opposite Le Duc Tho thrashed out a peace deal in Paris. Under its terms, the PAVN would withdraw from the Cambodian battlefield, leaving the Khmer to fight alone for the first time.

Days later, B-52s appeared in the Cambodian skies and began to pound the countryside. By August 1973, when both American Houses of Congress voted to end the bombings, rural Cambodia was in ruins.

Less than two years later, the Khmer Rouge was victorious. But what had been often dismissed as the 'sideshow' to the American war in Vietnam was to prove a catalyst for one of the great genocides of the 20th century.

1973

PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT

The Americans and North Vietnamese agree that the former will withdraw troops from Vietnam and the latter from Cambodia. Massive bombing resumes over Cambodia that ends in August, leaving thousands dead.

1975

KHMER ROUGE VICTORY

The pro-American regimes in South Vietnam and Cambodia are overthrown. Khmer Rouge immediately evacuates all towns and cities. Fighting erupts with the Vietnamese in the Gulf of Thailand over disputed islands.

1977

PURGES AND INVASION

Massive repression within Democratic Kampuchea destroys even the Khmer Rouge itself. Pol Pot orders attacks across the Vietnamese border, claiming Kampuchea must reclaim ancient territories.

1979

CAMBODIA INVADIED

The Vietnamese, responding to more border attacks, invade and occupy Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge flees with thousands of refugees to Thai border camps but begin a new war against the Vietnamese Army.



1991

FORCES PULL OUT

The Vietnamese government and rebel groups, including the Khmer Rouge, agree with the UN to end the civil war and hold elections in 1993. The eventual victor is Hun Sen, an ex-Khmer Rouge commander.

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Operation Desert Storm hit Iraq like a force of nature and heralded its decline from a regional power to a failed state, yet the story from inside Saddam's regime is rarely told

في عين عاصفة الصحراء

IN THE EYE OF DESERT STORM

WORDS TALLHA ABDULRAZAO



As has been the case since time immemorial, history is almost always written by the victors. The United States of America's rise to global power and dominance is a popular story, one told countless times over. However, what's rarely seen is an Iraqi perspective of the Gulf War.

While most observers focus on Saddam's expansionist agenda, they tend to neglect the Iraqi military, which is often a silent witness, barely considered in most histories of the war. Since the collapse of Saddam's Ba'athist regime after the US-led invasion in 2003, the archives of Saddam's secretive government have been laid bare for historians to pore over. It is now time for this iconic war to be revisited, and for the record to be re-examined. After all, this war was so devastating to the Iraqi military and state, it became etched into the Iraqi conscience as 'The Mother of Battles'.

After the Iran-Iraq War between 1980 and 1988, the Iraqi military was regionally viewed in much the same light as the Prussian military was among the Europeans after Moltke the Elder's successful campaigns in 1866-71. The Iraqi Army had developed a reputation for endurance, steadfastness and professionalism after its operations with Iran towards the end of the war that allowed Iraq to emerge victorious, if only just. At least compared to other Arab armies, who suffered a slew of defeats at the hands of Israel, the Iraqi Army came to be feared and respected.

This reputation was soon to be tested, this time against the military might of the Western world led by the only global superpower – the United States of America.

Kuwait – Iraq's 19th province

Since Iraq gained at least nominal independence from British colonial rule, it had made territorial claims over the country of Kuwait, believing it to be an integral part of its southern Basra region. After a bloody struggle with the Ayatollahs, Saddam's coffers were empty and the state was saddled with immense debts of \$30 billion to neighbouring Arab Gulf countries alone. With a tanking economy and decreasing oil revenue, resulting from an increase in his Arab neighbours' oil production that deflated prices, Saddam was under increasing pressure to act. When he failed to get his Arab creditors to relieve Iraq's debt burden through diplomacy, and with increasing whispers in Baghdad of a potential military coup against him, Saddam needed a show of strength and a distraction for his army all at once. He needed another war.

Saddam felt like he had been betrayed by his Arab brothers. In his eyes, Iraqi blood had been spilt for eight years in order to stop the fundamentalist Islamic Revolution of Ayatollah Khomeini from expanding into the rest of the Arab world. Rather than acknowledging Iraq's sacrifice, Saddam and his aides believed that their Arab neighbours were trying to weaken Iraq by keeping it indebted and with a weak economy. As Iraq's smallest neighbour, and as it shared the enormous Rumaila oil field, Kuwait was the obvious target for Iraqi ire, and would serve as a suitable demonstration of force that would

browbeat the other Arabs into acquiescence. Iraq began to mobilise on 15 July 1990 and deployed troops on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border as a last-ditch effort to intimidate the Kuwaitis into capitulating. When this failed, the invasion of Kuwait was ordered, and plans were drawn up.

Not much time was allotted for the Iraqi officers to plan their invasion. Primary responsibility for the invasion of Kuwait lay with the Republican Guard, commanded by Lieutenant General Ayad Futayyih al-Rawi. His operational plan was as follows:

The Republican Guard's 3rd Special Forces Brigade were to make an airborne landing in Kuwait City, the Kuwaiti capital, to capture the Emir of Kuwait's palace and other government buildings. They would be supported by forces from the Hammurabi Armoured Division, who would be thrusting down the main road connecting Iraq and Kuwait. Meanwhile, forces from the Nebuchadnezzar Infantry Division were tasked with establishing control over Kuwait City once the Special Forces Brigade had established control over primary targets.

A further Republican Guard infantry brigade was to penetrate Kuwait from the Iraqi town of Umm Qasr and move to gain control over the Kuwaiti island of Bubiyan, thus establishing Iraqi control north of Kuwait City.

The Republican Guard Medina Armoured Division was to drive on Ahmadi to secure the south of Kuwait City and cut it off from the south of Kuwait. This movement was to be supported by the Adnan Infantry Division, which would secure Kuwait's southern borders with Saudi Arabia.

After the war with Iran, Iraq had a fleet of 750 combat aircraft, which, in conjunction with the relatively small land mass of Kuwait

Soldiers of the Iraqi Army line up during the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-88



Sipa Press/REX



SADDAM'S REPUBLICAN GUARD الحرس الجمهوري

THE IRAQI REPUBLICAN GUARD WAS THE CREAM OF THE IRAQI MILITARY CROP, USED TO DETER ENEMIES BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD

The Republican Guard was the best of Iraq's ground forces. Originally formed in 1969 as a single brigade based in Baghdad, the Republican Guard's main role before the Iran-Iraq War was to prevent the Regular Army from making any coup attempts or overthrowing the government. Modern Iraqi history is replete with examples

of bloody putsches bringing new leaders and ideologies to power, and so the Republican Guard was formed as a Praetorian force to act as a deterrent against military officers who had ambitions above their station.

During the desperation of the Iran-Iraq War, the Republican Guard was expanded into eight

Below: An more-modern Iraqi T-72 pictured here during a firing test in 2008



divisions, given the best military equipment that Iraq could afford and granted privileges beyond other units. This made them into Iraq's premier fighting force, answerable only to Saddam himself. The best recruits and officers were given over to the Republican Guard. They were used as a strategic reserve to shore up weaker Iraqi units as well as an offensive force deployed to deal with the hardest operational challenges the Iraqi military had to face. They were responsible for retaking the Faw Peninsula from occupying Iranian forces near the end of the Iran-Iraq War, as well as contributing decisively to operations that led to the defeat and withdrawal of the Iranian military, which subsequently ended the war. Due to their proficiency and effectiveness, Saddam came to rely upon them more and more throughout his military adventures, and used them to spearhead the invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Iraqi officers plan their next moves as Operation Desert Storm closes in on them



NUMBERS

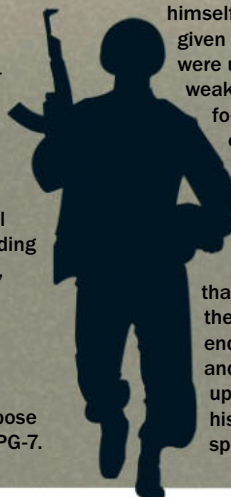
Eight divisions, approx 200,000 men – two armoured, one mechanised, four infantry and one special forces.

ARMOUR

Made use of BMP Armoured Personnel Carriers, T-72 Main Battle Tanks (including some Lions of Babylon, a T-72 variant), and 155mm self-propelled howitzers.

WEAPONS

Infantry weapons include AK-47, RPK Light Machine Guns, PKT General-Purpose Machine Guns, Makarov pistols and RPG-7.



placing airfields within easy range of Iraqi ground forces, gave them a high expectation of achieving and maintaining complete control of the skies. Such was their confidence that orders were issued to Iraqi commanders specifically instructing them to avoid destroying the Kuwaiti air force and navy, presumably so that Iraq could seize this equipment for itself.

The Kuwaiti Army was held in similarly low esteem, as a total of six brigades (one mechanised, two armoured, two commando, and a single Royal Guard brigade) were all the forces that Kuwait had to defend an area of less than 7,000 square miles against a vastly superior Iraqi force of 100,000. The Iraqis were both qualitatively and quantitatively superior to the Kuwaitis, outnumbering them by an enormous nine to one.

The invasion began in the early hours of 2 August 1990 in a two-pronged attack. Iraqi Special Forces were deployed via helicopter in Kuwait City as planned, while the Hammurabi Division drove south down Route 80 (soon to become infamous as the 'Highway of Death') directly towards Kuwait City. The Medina Armoured Division's thrust came down a road slightly farther to the west, before making a hook to the east to take up the positions outlined in the Iraqi campaign plan. It was at this moment that one of the rare few clashes with Kuwaiti forces began, but it proved to be a lacklustre affair.

At approximately 6.45am, the Kuwaiti 35th Armoured Brigade quite literally ran afoul of elements of the Iraqi 17th Armoured Brigade, commanded by then Brigadier General Ra'ad al-Hamdani. After their British-made Chieftain tanks received a volley of Iraqi T-72 fire into their flanks, the Kuwaiti brigade melted away, returning inaccurate fire that managed to take out just one Iraqi tank in this initial action.

In personal memoirs detailing his part in the conquest of Kuwait, al-Hamdani reported that the Iraqi forces were ordered to use non-lethal rounds when firing upon Kuwaiti armour in order to minimise casualties and to scare the defending forces into surrender rather than be forced to utterly destroy them. Al-Hamdani suggests that this is because many military commanders still saw the Kuwaitis as their Arab brothers, and, considering the overwhelming number of Iraqis, saw no need to deploy disproportionate force for what was a foregone conclusion of a total Iraqi victory.

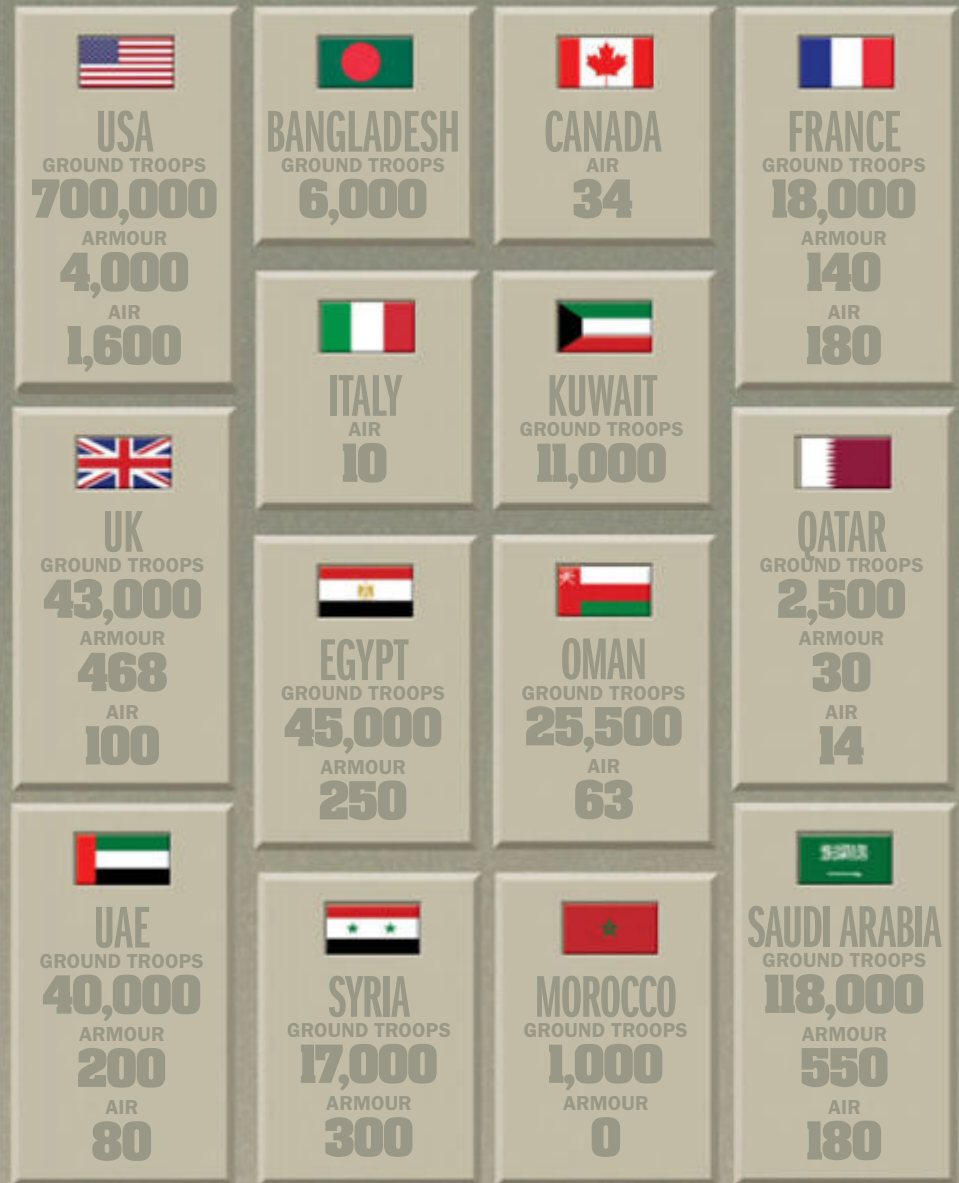
This conclusion came to pass less than 12 hours after the operation started. Apart from a small engagement with a brigade of Kuwaiti Royal Guardsmen at the Emir of Kuwait's palace that led to the death of Fahad

"THE IRAQIS WERE BOTH QUALITATIVELY AND QUANTITATIVELY SUPERIOR TO THE KUWAITIS, OUTNUMBERING THEM BY AN ENORMOUS NINE TO ONE"

THE ORIGINAL COALITION OF THE WILLING

الائتلاف الأمريكي

THE USA WASN'T ALONE IN ITS OPERATION AGAINST IRAQ'S OCCUPATION



VS



THE IRAQI ARMY

THE IRAQI ARMY FACED THE IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF FIGHTING AGAINST A COALITION OF 1,000,000 MEN, WITH ARMOUR AND COMBAT AIRCRAFT NUMBERING IN THE THOUSANDS USING ONLY THE FOLLOWING:



Al Sabah, the emir's younger brother, Iraq was in near total control. Over the next few days, Iraqi forces consolidated their control over Kuwait and mopped up any remaining pockets of resistance before Saddam formally announced that Kuwait had "joined" Iraq as its 19th province. The Kuwaiti royal family had fled almost as soon as Iraqi forces had crossed the border, their military units were either captured or had also fled to Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait no longer existed as a sovereign state.

Although the Iraqi forces had easily conquered Kuwait, it's highly likely they might not have celebrated their victory so eagerly had they known what kind of storm was brewing on the horizon.

The gathering storm

Immediately after Iraq invaded Kuwait, the international community, led by the United States, condemned the invasion and a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions were passed, demanding a complete Iraqi withdrawal and placing Iraq under sanctions.

Perhaps attempting to see if he could make the world blink first, Saddam refused to withdraw Iraqi forces from Kuwait, leading to a Western and allied Arab military buildup in the

region. Strategically, the United States feared what would happen if Iraq launched an invasion of oil-rich Saudi Arabia, thus placing most of the world's oil supply directly under Saddam's control, or at the very least threatened by him. However, this was not in Saddam's mind at

all. Iraqi sources show that, at a very basic level, all Saddam wanted was to restore the Iraqi economy and he hoped to use Kuwait as a bargaining chip to obtain concessions from his neighbours and the international community. This certainly explains why the Iraqi

With the Iraqi air force destroyed in the early stages of the war, unstoppable strikes from the air halted ground troops



THE LION OF BABYLON TANK أسد بابل

THE 'LION OF BABYLON' WAS AN IRAQI-MODIFIED SOVIET T-72 TANK THAT SOUNDED MORE FEARSOME THAN IT PROVED ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE

EFFECTIVE COMBAT RANGE
The effective combat engagement range of this tank was 1.8km, which was meagre compared to the British Challenger or the American M1 Abrams tanks.

ENGINE
With a V-12 diesel engine producing an underwhelming 780bhp, the Lion was capable of average speeds of 45km/h with an operational range of a maximum of 600km.

MAIN ARMAMENT

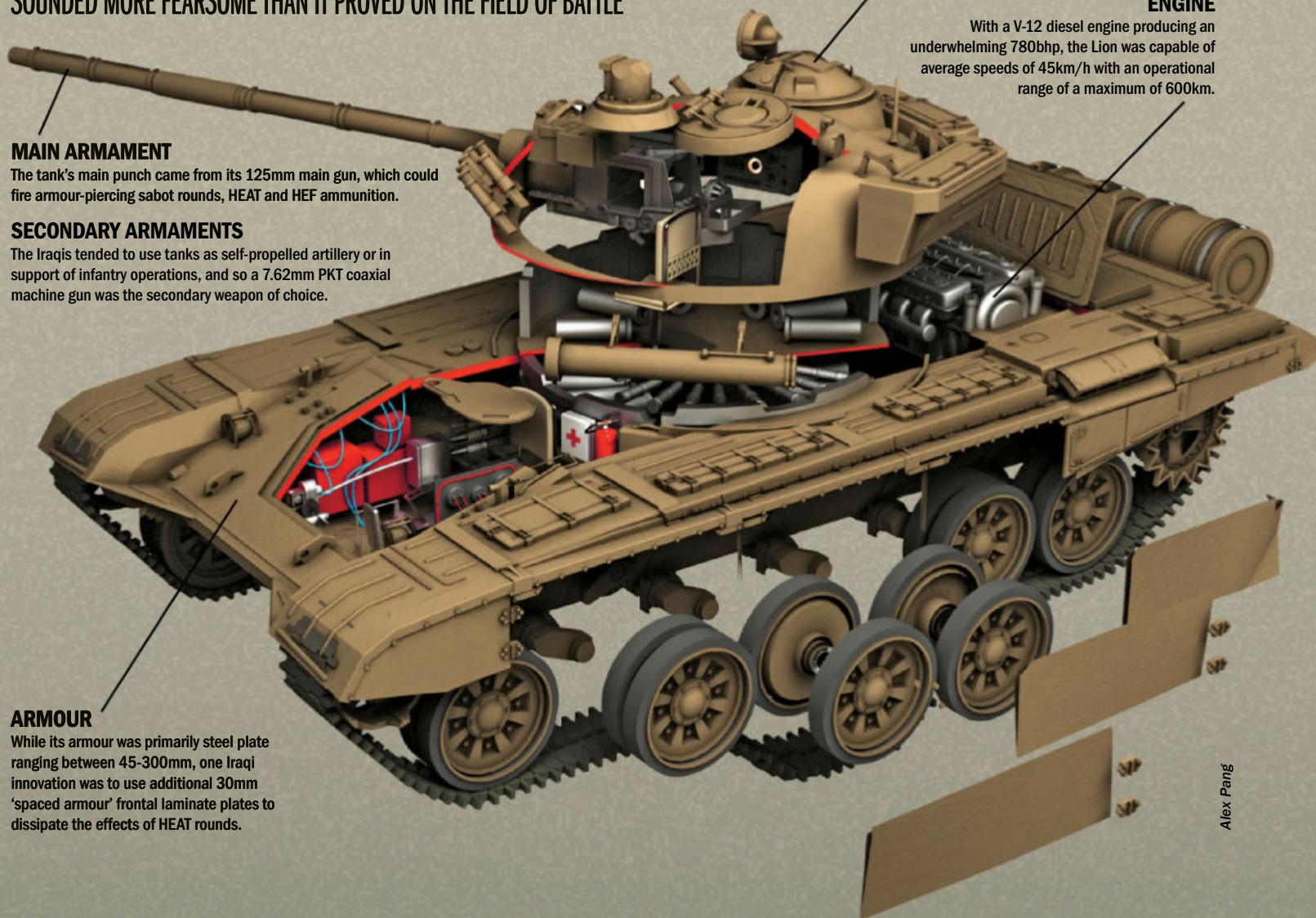
The tank's main punch came from its 125mm main gun, which could fire armour-piercing sabot rounds, HEAT and HEF ammunition.

SECONDARY ARMAMENTS

The Iraqis tended to use tanks as self-propelled artillery or in support of infantry operations, and so a 7.62mm PKT coaxial machine gun was the secondary weapon of choice.

ARMOUR

While its armour was primarily steel plate ranging between 45-300mm, one Iraqi innovation was to use additional 30mm 'spaced armour' frontal laminate plates to dissipate the effects of HEAT rounds.



Army sat still and watched as an international force nearing 1,000,000 soldiers and support personnel slowly amassed over a period of almost six months as a part of what was named Operation Desert Shield.

The Iraqi Army was forbidden from pre-emptively striking at the build up of the American-led Coalition Forces, and was instead left to ponder how best to weather the storm about to break over their heads. In an excellent example of how questioning Saddam's world view was detrimental to a man's military career, the Iraqi Army Chief of Staff, General Nizar al-Khazraji, was forced into retirement for suggesting that Iraqi forces should withdraw back to Iraq and end hostilities. The rest of the Iraqi staff officers knew that Saddam could easily take more than their jobs and already had a well-established reputation of having officers who displeased him killed. They soon presented Saddam with a defensive plan that made his strategic requirement of holding Kuwait their priority, even though they were very aware that this was a losing gambit, effectively paralysing the Iraqi military before combat operations had even begun.

Iraqi planners understood very well that the primary objective of the coalition would be to destroy as much of Iraq's air power infrastructure as possible, including attacks on aircraft and airfields. Nonetheless, and contrary to their experiences of the Iraqi air force's dire performance during the Iran-Iraq War, they planned to use air power to provide support to Iraqi ground forces.

The Iraqi Army was to mobilise all its reserves and prepare to deploy the majority of an army of 600,000 men into prepared, dug-in defensive positions. The Republican Guard would be used as a strategic reserve only upon the order of Saddam himself, and they were positioned just north of the Kuwaiti border with the intention that they would shore up any of the weaker Iraqi Army units.

The Iraqi plan was essentially to fight a conventional war against the best-equipped, trained and supplied conventional military force in the world. Saddam's obsession with holding captured territory and not relinquishing it to better serve military aims stems from the way he conducted the Iraqi invasion of Iran. Rather than give up territory that was not essential to military objectives, Saddam made his soldiers fight tooth and nail for seemingly little gain. A mere few years after the Iran-Iraq War ended, and history was already repeating itself.

In a desperate attempt to even the odds, al-Hamdani claims that the Iraqi Command even authorised the use of Scud missiles as well as kamikaze pilots against coalition naval units, such as aircraft carriers. Scud missiles are notoriously inaccurate, as Iraqi attempts were to shortly prove, and even thinking of depending on suicidal pilots demonstrates the desperate situation Iraqi commanders were in.

The storm breaks

Not long after Saddam failed to heed the 15 January 1991 deadline for Iraq to withdraw, Operation Desert Storm was unleashed upon Iraqi forces at 2.30 am on 17 January. For 39 days, the coalition conducted an intense strategic bombing campaign that hammered

"SADDAM REFUSED TO WITHDRAW IRAQI FORCES FROM KUWAIT, LEADING TO A WESTERN AND ALLIED ARAB MILITARY BUILDUP IN THE REGION"

Iraqi military and civilian infrastructure, notoriously killing 408 civilians who were taking shelter in Baghdad's Amiriyah bomb shelter.

Iraqi aircraft, air defences, early warning radar systems and Army Air Aviation units were destroyed in order to achieve complete command of the skies. The coalition's complete dominance over the airspace made Iraqi command and control facilities easy targets and were subsequently obliterated, further crippling Iraq's ability to mount a successful defence. Next on the hit list was the Iraqi military itself, although many Iraqi defensive positions, honed after eight years of war with

Iran, proved to be successful at preserving most of the units sheltering there. All in all, more than 100,000 sorties were flown against Iraqi targets, dropping a devastating 88,500 tons of bombs.

Never wanting it to be said that the Iraqi military took a severe bombing lying down, the first real ground engagement of Desert Storm took place on 29 January – after Iraqi forces attempted an offensive to throw the coalition off balance and bring the war back down to the ground, where they hoped to fare better.

The Iraqi 5th Mechanised Division, alongside a supporting brigade from both the 3rd Armoured Division and the 1st Mechanised Division, thrust over the Kuwaiti-Saudi border to take the Saudi port town of Khafji ten kilometres away. Moments after Iraqi forces began to move, they were repeatedly hammered by coalition airstrikes. Nonetheless, the Iraqis still managed to take Khafji by bearing down upon American forces and their Saudi allies.

This victory was very short-lived, however, as throughout the next two days Iraqi forces in Khafji were besieged in the town they had

Iraqi soldiers, pictured in 1990, raise their AK-47s in a show of support for their country



طريق الموت

THE HIGHWAY OF DEATH

AS IRAQI FORCES FLED KUWAIT, COALITION AIRCRAFT LED BY THE UNITED STATES DEVASTATED THEM, LEAVING BURNING WRECKAGES ON HIGHWAY 80

On the night of 26 February 1991, Iraqi forces ceased combat operations in Kuwait and began withdrawing along the main highway back to Iraq. This large movement of troops and vehicles formed an enormous convoy of closely packed military targets that coalition aircraft, spearheaded by the US Air Force, took as an opportunity to deal a devastating blow. The withdrawing convoy was subjected to such intense aerial bombardment that by the next day the entire highway was littered with smouldering corpses and burning tank hulks. The Iraqi forces stood no chance, as the coalition had already previously neutralised the Iraqi air force and air defence systems, and gained complete air superiority.

This stretch of highway gained the moniker of 'the Highway of Death' due to almost 2,000 Iraqi vehicles being destroyed and possibly thousands of Iraqi men found killed either still in their vehicles or on the side of the road after trying to escape. To this day, there is no accurate account of exactly how many Iraqi soldiers lost their lives on the Highway of Death, but it is clear that after this event the Iraqi military would never be the same again.

"TO THIS DAY, THERE IS NO ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF EXACTLY HOW MANY IRAQI SOLDIERS LOST THEIR LIVES ON THE HIGHWAY OF DEATH"

An American soldier inspects the carbonised bodies of Iraqi soldiers who were killed when their convoy of vehicles was bombed as they attempted to retreat from Kuwait



A small stretch of road on the Highway of Death. Even civilian vehicles were caught in the carnage



The twisted metal and wrecked hull of an Iraqi tank. The tank crew would not have survived



just taken. Coming under heavy bombardment from American airstrikes while also fending off attacks from elements of the US 3rd Marine Regiment and the Saudi 2nd National Guard Brigade, the Iraqis were unable to reinforce their positions due to coalition air interdiction missions preventing any further significant Iraqi penetrations into Saudi territory. After resisting for two days, the Iraqis were forced to surrender and Khafji was recaptured on 1 February, with Iraqi casualties numbering 554 men.

Coalition airstrikes showed no signs of letting up, and apart from the Battle of Khafji, the Iraqis made no further attempts to force the coalition into a ground war. This was not because they had given up, but simply because they were denied any opportunity. Instead, they maintained their defensive positions until coalition forces finally gave the Iraqis the land offensive they had desired for more than a month. 24 February 1991 will long be a date remembered as when the Iraqi military jumped out of the frying pan and into the fire. Over the next 100 hours, the war would be decided in favour of the coalition, with Iraq's military forces severely damaged.

Under the overall command of US General Norman Schwarzkopf, coalition ground units launched a spearhead into Kuwait from the south after creating feints to make the Iraqis believe the coalition would invade across Iraq's southern border with Saudi Arabia. Most Iraqi units were incredibly hungry after months of sanctions, and officers reported having to eat bread that was as hard as stone to survive. This had a devastating affect on troop morale, with soldiers surrendering en masse to attacking coalition forces.

Iraq's border with Saudi Arabia is about 810 kilometres long, and with most of the Iraqi forces focused in static defensive positions in the south east of Iraq and inside Kuwait itself, this left the Iraqis vulnerable to being flanked. The US 7th Corps attacked from the south and fixed the Iraqi forces, and the US 18th Airborne Corps executed a large sweep farther to the west, driving into the Iraqi desert before turning east to cut off Iraqi units attempting to escape. However, the main threat to American plans was still the Republican Guard.

As Saddam's strategic reserve, and having just sustained more than a month of airstrikes, the Republican Guard put up a valiant attempt at salvaging an impossible situation. On the last full day of fighting in Desert Storm, the Republican Guard at least were capable of being the only unit to temporarily force an American withdrawal.

The Medina Division's 2nd Brigade had entrenched its tanks in defilade along a ridge about 36 kilometres from the Kuwaiti border to conceal their presence from the advancing US 1st Armored Division. With no air support, the Republican Guardsmen attacked ferociously, their anti-aircraft batteries able to shoot down one American A-10 bomber, which forced the American commander to temporarily withdraw his forces to a safer distance, before recommencing attack and eventually overcoming this Republican Guard force.

Realising the futility of continuing the war, and as he watched his forces melting away around him, Saddam called for a full withdrawal from Kuwait on 27 February. Retreating Iraqi forces fled back up Route 80, but were bombed relentlessly, creating the carnage we now know as the Highway of Death.

By the time US President Bush declared a ceasefire on 28 February, Iraqi casualties amounted to more than 200,000, including 35,000 fatalities and 63,000 soldiers captured. In comparison, the coalition's KIA list of 341 was very light indeed. After facing down an alliance of 34 countries, hundreds of thousands of soldiers and thousands of tanks and aircraft, Iraq had lost the Gulf War. The results of Iraq's military misadventure in the Gulf cost it not only a large part of its forces, but also led to it being placed under a merciless sanctions regime that crippled the Iraqi economy and led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians.

Desert Storm was named 'The Mother of Battles' because, in all its history since its foundation in 1921, the Iraqi Armed Forces had never faced such a devastating campaign of annihilation. The losses suffered by Iraq in one of the most ferocious military campaigns in history presaged the beginning of many long years of suffering that continues to this day.

خطورة التشكيك بالأوامر THE DANGER OF QUESTIONING ORDERS

LIEUTENANT GENERAL RA'AD AL-HAMDANI, A FORMER COMMANDER IN THE IRAQI REPUBLICAN GUARD, WROTE ABOUT HIS GULF WAR EXPERIENCES AND THE DANGERS OF QUESTIONING SUPERIOR OFFICERS

"I had the audacity to criticise the Iraqi war plan... The primary problem with [the plan] was that it was based upon the experience of the Iran-Iraq War and was designed taking these precedents into account. The plan should have taken into account the new military environment where we would be facing armies that are at the peak of any standard witnessed throughout military history.

"This military environment was completely different from the one we knew during our war with Iran... and we would be unable to execute our plans due to the overwhelming air superiority enjoyed by the enemy that would make its presence known within days of combat commencing. This air superiority would restrict our movements while granting the enemy full operational freedom of movement in comparison to us.

"As was customary in the Iraqi military, my criticisms were considered unacceptable and politically unjustifiable. My critique was mocked, and one senior officer stated: 'These words are dangerous and clearly run contrary to the wishes and guidance of the President [Saddam Hussein]. They are an attempt to diminish our morale, and your suggestions serve the interests of the enemy.'

"A military investigation committee was set up immediately to investigate what I meant by my words, and if I was truly doubting the orders of the President... I later found out that the man who saved me from these accusations was none other than Qusay, the son of President Saddam Hussein, who had served with me on the front in the Iran-Iraq War in 1983."

"WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO EXECUTE OUR PLANS DUE TO THE OVERWHELMING AIR SUPERIORITY ENJOYED BY THE ENEMY"



Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait wave white flags as they surrender to the coalition forces



US aircraft fly over Kuwaiti oil fires set by the retreating Iraqi army

IN THE EYE OF DESERT STORM

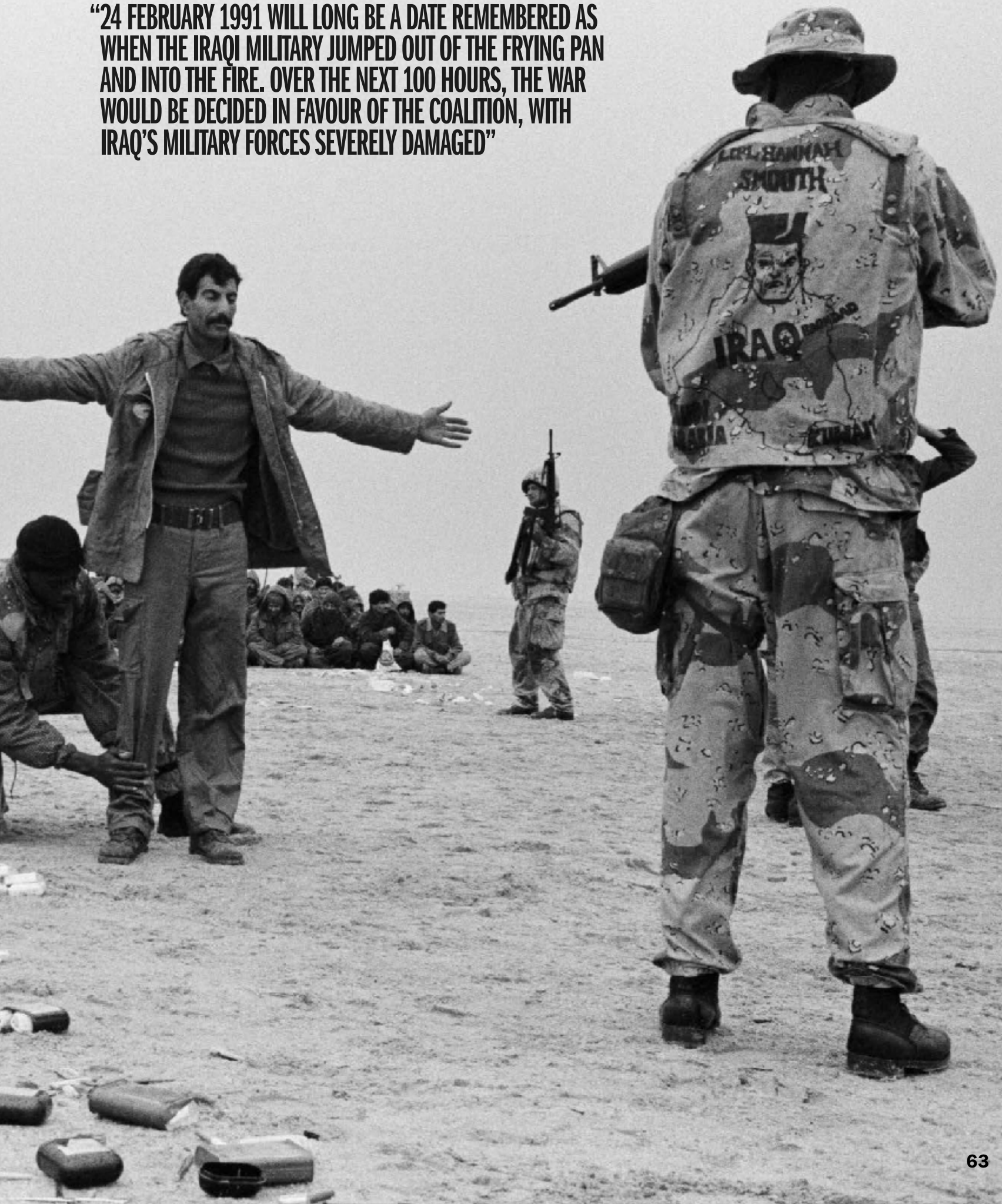
أم المعارك

“THE MOTHER OF BATTLES”
THE IRAQI NAME FOR THE 1990 GULF WAR



An Iraqi prisoner of war
is searched at gunpoint
after being captured by
US Marines

“24 FEBRUARY 1991 WILL LONG BE A DATE REMEMBERED AS WHEN THE IRAQI MILITARY JUMPED OUT OF THE FRYING PAN AND INTO THE FIRE. OVER THE NEXT 100 HOURS, THE WAR WOULD BE DECIDED IN FAVOUR OF THE COALITION, WITH IRAQ’S MILITARY FORCES SEVERELY DAMAGED”





Heroes of the Medal of Honor

ROBERT G COLE

Under constant fire from enemy machine guns and mortars, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cole led one of the most daring attacks of the war

WORDS JACK GRIFFITHS

Many soldiers became heroes when the Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy on 6 June 1944 – D-Day. The claiming of the French coastline wasn't the end of Operation Overlord though, as in the next few months the Allied military continued to push through occupied France, busting Fortress Europe open at its very seams. One of the many Americans involved in the operation was Lieutenant Colonel Robert G Cole of the 101st Airborne Division.

Born in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on 19 March 1915, Robert Cole was destined for a sterling career in the US Army. His father, Clarence, was an ex-colonel and army doctor and by 1934, the young Texan had worked his way up the ranks and enrolled in the West Point United States Military Academy, from which he graduated in 1939. He later became part of the Washington 15th Infantry Regiment along with a certain Dwight Eisenhower, but the young Cole's ambition was always to be a paratrooper. This dream was realised when, in 1943, a reshuffle in the US Army's command structure awarded him the role of Commander (Lieutenant Colonel) of the 3rd Battalion, 502nd PIR and 101st Airborne Division.

Apart from a brief hiatus from service in the summer of 1940 to marry his childhood sweetheart Allie Mae, Cole was thrust into service in Europe, leaving his new wife and young son, Bruce, behind. But the first stop for the US troops was not France, it was England. Based in Chilton Foliat in Wiltshire, it was here that the 502nd Regiment would receive their grounding ahead of landing in Europe. As well as rigorous training, Cole and his men gained a new identity here, with an iconic white heart painted on the side of their helmets. After a year of training, it was time for the attack – D-Day was imminent.



FOR VALOUR

The USA's highest military honour is awarded to members of the armed forces for exceptional acts of valour in combat. This is when service personnel have gone beyond the call of duty, often placing themselves in difficult situations beyond reasonable expectation.

WHY DID HE WIN IT?

Pinned to the ground under relentless German fire and with seemingly nowhere to go, Cole summoned his courage to lead a successful bayonet charge against a heavily fortified enemy position.

WHERE WAS THE BATTLE?

Just off the coast of Normandy on the road to the French town of Carentan. The Omaha and Utah beaches had been taken and it was time to advance further into Fortress Europe.

WHEN DID IT TAKE PLACE?

10-11 June 1944

WHEN WAS HE AWARDED THE MEDAL?

October 1944. Posthumously to his wife and two-year-old son at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The Lieutenant Colonel fell during Operation Market Garden two weeks previously.

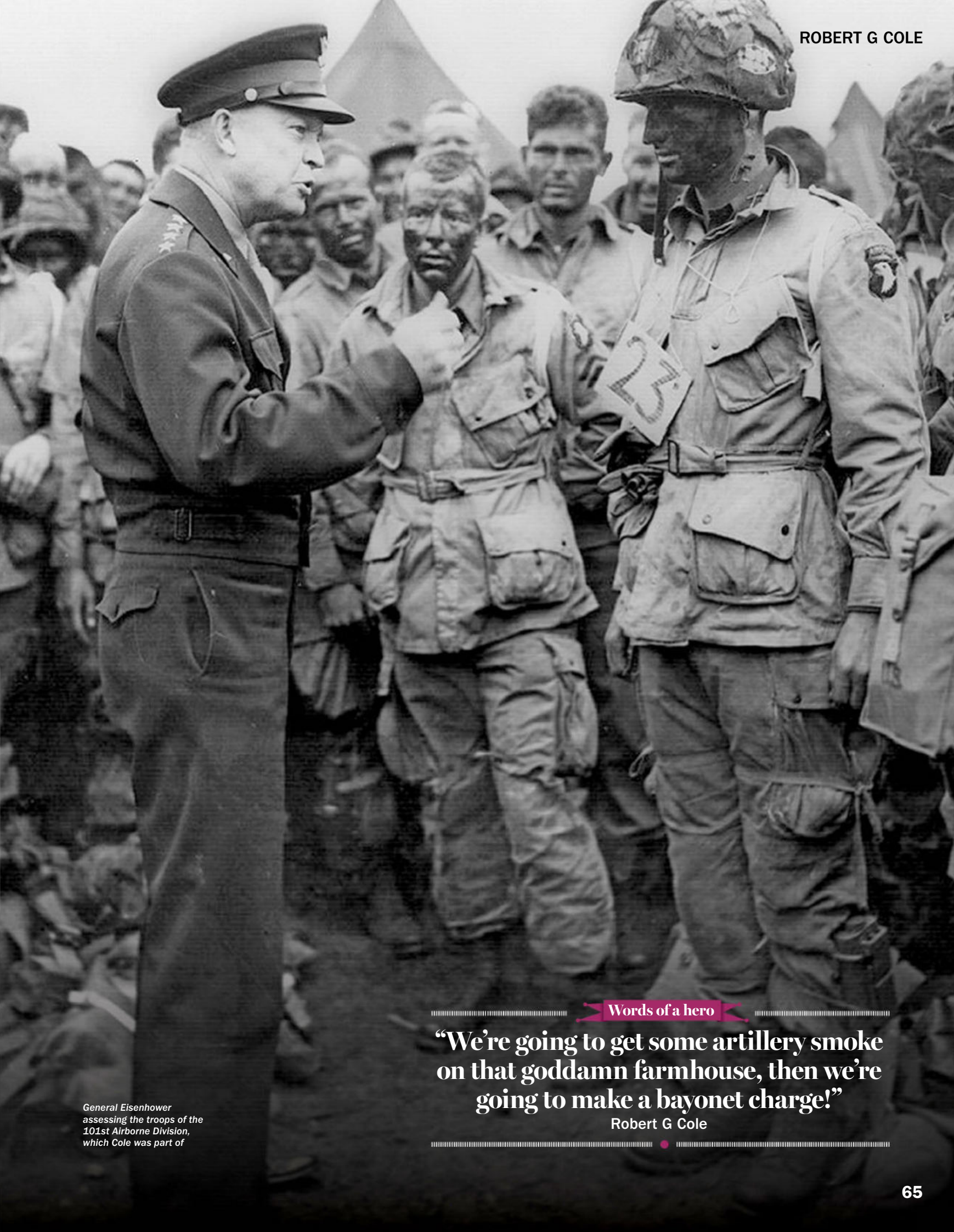
Along with the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st dropped in from a Douglas C-47 Skytrain and were the first to parachute into occupied France. Always the leader of the pack, Robert Cole was, naturally, the first man out of the plane. The drops didn't go exactly to plan, as many of the battalion missed the drop zone and were left scattered across the beaches. However, the squad soon reconvened and made it to their target, Hill 30.

Nearing their objective, the reunited forces split in half to create two secure exits from the beachhead. As many as 75 Germans were killed along the way with minimal US losses. After five days of fighting, Cole and his squad were issued new orders: capture Carentan. The link between the Utah and Omaha landing beaches and a centre of German operations in the area, the town was an essential target for the invasion force.

Leading from the front, the 3rd Battalion spearheaded the advance into Carentan. With no direct route, the men were forced to criss-cross over a causeway between Carentan and the neighbouring village of Saint-Côme-du-

Lt Col Robert Cole





General Eisenhower
assessing the troops of the
101st Airborne Division,
which Cole was part of

Words of a hero

**“We’re going to get some artillery smoke
on that goddamn farmhouse, then we’re
going to make a bayonet charge!”**

Robert G Cole

01 Bridge occupation

Tearing through Normandy, Cole and his battalion are tasked with traversing a causeway on the road towards the city of Carentan. The order is to occupy the bridges over the River Douve on the outskirts of the city. Under the cover of nightfall, Cole's battalion moves towards the first bridge without incident.

03 Dive bombing

Pinned down by a barrage of bullets, things worsen for Cole and his troops as two German Stuka dive-bombers strafe the US troops. After the attack, progress slows dramatically as the Germans have laid obstacles on the road, making it a bottleneck.

02 Under fire

The second bridge is reached by 1.30am and, unlike Cole has been informed, it has not been repaired. A shaky, improvised footbridge is constructed but before they can cross it, the battalion is forced to take evasive action from mortar and machine gun fire.

FOR MORE GREAT BATTLES SEE
ALL ABOUT
HISTORY
ISSUE 25, ON SALE NOW!



05 The bayonet charge

At 6.15 in the morning, Cole has decided on a plan of action. To the shock of his men, the Lieutenant Colonel gives the order for a bayonet charge. Leaping out of the hedgerows, Cole and 70 men sprint towards the farm at the Nazi positions under a hail of bullets.

Praise for a hero

“The cool fearlessness, personal bravery and outstanding leadership displayed by Lt Col Cole reflect great credit upon himself and are worthy of the highest praise in the military service”

Medal of Honor citation

Mont, while blazing a trail for the remainder of the regiment to follow. As well as the natural hazards, Cole's men faced a foe intent on defending Fortress Europe to the last man – the Third Reich's continent-conquering Wehrmacht. The Germans had already flooded the causeway, making it a dangerous bottleneck. Under heavy fire and taking cover from a dive-bomb attack from two Stukas, the young Lieutenant Colonel's battalion lost many men but pressed on to eventually reach the fourth and final bridge in the early hours of 11 June. The area would come to be forever known as 'Purple Heart Lane', as so many of the US troops involved earned the American military decoration of the same name.

The causeway had been successfully navigated, but there was still a long way to go for Cole and his weary battalion. Cole, a strict yet modest leader, had managed to keep the morale of his troops high, as they still had not arrived in the city limits of Carentan. He was nicknamed 'The Chief' by his men and it was him that they would follow into the next day, a day that would change all of their lives.

The farm that the battalion was nearing played host to a fortified German position. After running the gauntlet of Purple Heart Lane, just 265 of the original 400 soldiers remained. The German position had machine guns and mortars tracked at the 3rd Battalion and the farm was seemingly impenetrable. Cole reloaded his 45. pistol and concocted an audacious and risky plan. Bayonet charges had last been used in the Great War and been almost totally abandoned by 1944; running towards an armed MG 32 was no Allied soldier's idea of a structured, well-thought-out attack. However, this is just what 'The Chief' was proposing his battalion do.

On paper the idea was madness. Having been pinned down by the machine gun nest for what had seemed like an eternity, a charge onto open ground right into its cross hairs was a frightening prospect. Fixing their bayonets, the troops took a deep breath and leapt over the hedgerow at 6.15am, right on Cole's whistle. Charging towards the German positions firing wildly, Cole led the way as he and his men rushed the Axis lines and flew into the farm, slashing their bayonets at the Wehrmacht troops.

The charge was costly; only 130 of the 265 survived. But not all of the battalion had heard Cole's signal, so in the confusion many remained in their original positions. The battle was not over yet though, as the Wehrmacht regrouped and surrounded the farm. Seemingly back at square one, Cole had a trick up his sleeve. Now sheltered by the farmhouse, the

Lieutenant Colonel called for artillery support. This was a masterstroke and within 15 minutes, the incoming shells decimated the unprotected Germans. The area was now secure as the 2nd battalion arrived to relieve the 3rd and treat the wounded. It was an arduous journey, but somehow it had been a success.

Three months on and the 101st Airborne Division was ready for its next assignment. It would be Cole's last. The mission to capture a bridge in the Dutch town of Best was going to plan, but serious German opposition had soon amassed and artillery began to bombard the company. While organising a counter-attack from the air, Cole was struck by a sniper shot in the temple, killing him instantly.

This was a huge blow not just for the 502nd but the US military as a whole. Cole received his Medal of Honor posthumously and was buried at the American Battlefields Monument Commission Cemetery in Margraten, Holland. A school in his hometown is now named after him and a service in Carentan on the 70th anniversary of D-Day was held in his honour. The bravery and valour shown by soldiers like Robert G Cole is one of the main reasons D-Day turned out to be the success that it was.

Right: Lt Col Robert G Cole's grave in the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten, Holland

Below: An artistic representation of Cole's finest moment on that fateful day in June 1944



04 The farmhouse

Cole and his men are forced to take cover once again after taking fire from a farmhouse the Wehrmacht soldiers have penned themselves in. Stuck in cover, there is no way out for the battalion and, to escape, an act of immense courage will be required.

06 Taking the farm

The soldiers make it to the machine gun nests and dislodge the Germans from their posts. Cole himself is initially only armed with a pistol but manages to claim a rifle off a fallen comrade and helps flush out the Germans from their position.

07 Consolidation

Only 130 of the 265 men survive the charge, but an essential location is now in Allied hands thanks to Cole's quick thinking and courage. Defensive positions are set up in the compound as the remainder of the regiment are called in for support.



“The land of smiles may dazzle the world with its allure, but behind this façade is a frightening chronicle of intrigue and bloodletting”



BRIEFING

Thailand in chaos

How the status quo of Southeast Asia's most prosperous kingdom pushed back hard against populism to save itself

WORDS MIGUEL MIRANDA

The final act in Thailand's latest political drama was a ruse. After months of street battles and tense protests, the leaders of the two main political parties wrestling for the country's future agreed to meet at the Royal Thai Army Club, a spacious venue along a major thoroughfare in Bangkok. It was a balmy May evening, the 21st of the month, a Wednesday.

But the leaders of the pro-establishment People's Democratic Reform Committee and their counterparts from the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship, colloquially known as the 'Red Shirts', had not exactly arrived out of their own goodwill. Rather, they had no choice. At the start of the week, on 19 May, the Royal Thai Armed Forces declared martial law. This came two weeks after a high court dismissed the administration of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, the photogenic younger sister of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was forced from office in a 2006 coup d'état.

What transpired inside the club that night might never be known, but the result was startling, if inevitable. When constructive dialogue failed, those in attendance were detained, along with up to 200 other activists, in safe houses across the Thai capital.

In the small hours of the following morning, General Prayuth Chan-ocha made a televised address to the nation. For the second time this century, Thailand's generals were taking over. A curfew from 10pm to 5am was imposed, TV stations were blocked and troops deployed in force to dissuade further protests.

Thankfully, there was no mass violence to challenge the armed forces' crackdown. Many among Bangkok's middle and upper class applauded the timely intervention, as it literally cleaned the streets of undesirable Red Shirts.

A day after the announcement, Yingluck Shinawatra was summoned to the Army Club and General Chan-ocha assumed the role of prime minister. He now leads a caretaker government that is preparing Thailand for national elections this year – or maybe next.

Depending on which academic source is consulted, this was either the 19th or the 32nd instance of a forceful transfer of power in modern Thailand's history. The land of smiles may dazzle the world with its allure, but behind this façade is a frightening chronicle of intrigue and bloodletting.

A multitude of Ramas

Modern Thailand assumed its present form at the dawn of the 20th century. Dispossessed of its grip on Cambodia and Laos by the French, with the British having subdued its ancient rival Burma and under the firm control of Malaya, Siam was boxed in by 1910. This state of affairs would go on to produce Thailand's present-day boundaries.

But at the time, the ruling Chakri Dynasty had its eye on modernisation. The Chakris were conquerors at heart, and in 1782 their founder Rama I, or Buddha Yodfa Chulalok, moved the present capital to a more-defensible position by the Chao Phraya River, thereby creating Bangkok, and went about expanding the realm.

Four generations later, it no doubt occurred to Siam's nobility that it was better off adopting the West's ideas and technology rather than agree with even the most benign colonialism.

This meant Siam needed to perform a balancing act with major European powers during the reign of Rama V, or King Chulalongkorn the Great. Siam's ruling elite were sowing the seeds of a long and ambiguous conflict that would recur in the present day.

TIMELINE OF THAI COUP D'ETATS

1782

Rama I, or King Buddha Yodfa Chulaloke, formerly General Chao Phraya Chakri, establishes the Chakri Dynasty. Bangkok becomes the new capital.



1908

During the reign of Rama V, or King Chulalongkorn, the lèse majesté is included in the criminal code of Thailand's new laws. A century later, there is now a growing clamour to either amend or abolish it.

1912

An obscure failed revolt by revolutionary officers to oust Rama VI, or King Vajiravudh, is the first time the absolute monarchy is under threat in the 20th century.

Thai soldiers stand guard in Bangkok in a bid to suppress illegal anti-coup protests

The first great shock came in 1932, when a group of intellectuals and officers launched a bloodless coup d'état and sought to reformat Siam and its people, that is, change it from the top down for the common good. This tumultuous period in Thailand's history is described in vivid detail by an obscure text commissioned by the US government during the final decade of the Cold War.

No longer in print, *Thailand: A Country Study* was published in 1987 and edited by researcher Barbara Leitch LePoer. The book itself has been archived in the Library of Congress and is available for perusal online. Its account of the events following 1932 is valuable for its rich and insightful detail and depiction of a country in flux.

The major ideological and social forces that swept the world had manifested in Siam at the time. Nationalism was on the rise, so the Kingdom of Siam was renamed Thailand in 1939, although it would not be globally recognised as such until ten years later. The shock of the Great Depression was still being felt, so radical plans to industrialise the rural economy were pushed.

Autocratic strongmen were in vogue, and Thailand's right-wing despot, Field Marshal Luang Phibunsongkhram, imposed his own dictatorship by 1938.

The pitiless elite

A historian of the United States Marine Corps, Captain Merrill L Bartlett, wrote in 1973 – the

last year of America's war in Vietnam – about a minor incident before the 1932 coup, when a young subversive named Ho Chi Minh was in Thailand. Captain Bartlett places the date of Ho's arrival during the fall of 1928, when the firebrand infiltrated the country dressed as a monk.

"His mission was threefold," Bartlett wrote. "Set up party cells among the Vietnamese colonies, foment trouble for the French Colonial administration in Indo-China and reorganise the Communist International in Southeast Asia."

Bartlett goes on to describe a vast communist network whose tentacles stretched across the region. Bartlett reveals that one of the key architects of the 1932 coup d'état, the French-educated Pridi Banomyong, was labelled a communist by his rivals, which is ironic, since he laid the foundations of the modern Thai constitutional monarchy.

Furthermore, Banomyong played a pivotal role in undermining Thailand's inconvenient alliance with Imperial Japan during World War II, which led to a long-standing, if ill-defined, partnership with the US that continues today.

The constitution that followed the 1932 coup d'état stripped the incumbent king, Rama VII, or Prajadhipok, of his executive powers. The once-absolute monarch was now a ceremonial head of state. Despite a failed royalist counter-coup in 1933, the Chakri dynasty reached its lowest ebb. By 1935, the 40-year-old Rama VII would abdicate and leave for England, where he died in 1941.



A REVOLUTION IN MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Royal Thai Armed Forces has spent the last ten years slowly acquiring current-generation weapon systems from a handful of countries. The goal seems to be getting hold of top-shelf hardware for the best price.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Thailand's defence budget in 2013 reached \$5.4 billion dollars. In 2014, the defence budget jumped to \$6 billion and projected to increase in 2015.

AIR FORCE

4 HELICOPTERS (FRANCE)
12 SAAB JAS 39 GRIPEN MULTIROLE FIGHTERS (SWEDEN)
2 SAAB ERIEYE AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING & CONTROL SYSTEM (SWEDEN)

ARMY

49 T-84 OPLON-M MAIN BATTLE TANKS (UKRAINE)
230 BTR-3E1 APCs (UKRAINE)
12 ATMOS 155MM SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY (ISRAEL)
36 IGLA-S MANPADS (RUSSIA)
30,000 TAR-21 RIFLES (ISRAEL)
531 NEGEV LIGHT MACHINE GUNS (ISRAEL)

NAVY

1 LANDING PLATFORM DOCK, HTMS ANGTHONG (SINGAPORE)
2 DW 3000F STEALTH FRIGATES (SOUTH KOREA)
2 UPGRADED TYPE 25T FRIGATES (CHINA)
1 RIVER-CLASS OFFSHORE PATROL VESSEL (UK)



His majesty, Rama IX, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning monarch and Thailand's keeper of the peace

1932

A revolution or a coup d'état? An alliance of intellectuals and officers in the military seize power and abolish Siam's absolute monarchy. Seven years later, the country is renamed Thailand – the land of the free.

1943

After being forced to open their country to the Imperial Japanese Army in 1941, Thailand's elite forge an alliance with the US and Britain, preserving their country from further invasion.



1947

One of the masterminds of the 1932 coup d'état, Field Marshal Luang Phibunsongkhram topples the civilian government. He was ousted in a 1944 coup d'état and is ousted again in 1957.



1950

The coronation of King Bhumibol Adulyadej takes place at the Royal Palace.





A column of US-made M41 light tanks during the 2006 coup d'état that ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra
Inset: General Prayuth Chan-ocha



A dwindling dynasty

King Rama IX, or Bhumibol Adulyadej, was an accidental choice for the throne. The circumstances of his kingship are equally as troubling. When the first great tide of post-colonialism was about to sweep Asia and Africa, Thailand was in a very peculiar crisis.

A coup d'état in 1947 deposed Prime Minister Banomyong, who was replaced by Field Marshal Phibunsongkhram, who was in turn ousted by a coup d'état on 17 September 1957. It was now apparent that since 1932, the palace coup d'état had become the preferred method for replacing governments in Thailand.

In 1946, King Rama VIII, or Ananda Mahidol, was killed by a gunshot to the head. To this day, the events surrounding his death are a matter of intense speculation.

It is the contemporary Scottish writer and journalist Andrew MacGregor Marshall who would provide a rare glimpse into the enigmatic King Bhumibol's rise to power, based on his findings from the 'Cablegate' hoard published by Wikileaks and his own experience as a correspondent in Thailand.

"The possibility that Bhumibol shot his brother – probably by accident – was regarded as the most likely scenario by many senior Thai officials and foreign diplomats at the time," he wrote in 2011. "The common view was that the truth had then been suppressed to prevent Thailand sinking deeper into turmoil."

Bhumibol's ascension to the throne marked the Chakri Dynasty's most vulnerable moment. He was a replacement king, and in Marshall's own words, the calming effect he could exert on Thailand's fractious political squabbles was a question mark.

"Bhumibol grew up in Switzerland," Marshall wrote, "a world away from the arcane universe of Siam's royal court, which appeared to be dimming into insignificance and extinction."

But King Bhumibol would prove his mettle, and after his coronation on 5 May 1950, together with his wife Queen Sirikit, he would nurture a family and a nation through storm and stress.

Power behind the throne

While successive coups are symptoms of an impending civil war in other countries, Thailand is exceptional. It boils down to King Bhumibol.

“The Thais displayed an indomitable fighting spirit”



Soldiers were sent to secure a venue for peace talks after the army chief announced the military were taking over

1951

The 'quiet' coup d'état by officers in the police and armed forces is launched. The 1932 constitution is restored but a new one is written shortly after, apparently to get rid of Phibunsongkhram's rivals.

1957

After mass protest against the Phibunsongkhram regime, Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat launches a coup d'état and an interim government is established. Field Marshal Thanarat launches another coup d'état in 1958.

1963

Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn launches a coup d'état. He stays in power for the next 14 years.



1966

The Royal Thai Military Assistance Group (RTMAG) is formed to help South Vietnam's beleaguered armed forces. While Thailand sends troops to its neighbour, up to 50,000 US personnel are eventually based in Thailand.

1971

Another coup d'état by Thanom Kittikachorn topples a nominal civilian government.

1973

500,000+ student protesters demonstrate and overthrow the regime of Kittikachorn.

Having spent his formative years abroad, he nonetheless accepted his responsibilities to his subjects with purposeful vigour. For the past 60 years he has brought calm and a sense of balance to Thailand's often-turbulent political scene. The problem was, no matter how much he tried to be a role model, the coup d'etat remained a preferred method for transforming the local balance of power. Of course, the act of launching a coup was a military prerogative.

The soldiers of the Royal Thai Armed Forces are no slouches. During the Vietnam War, 12,000 Royal soldiers fought alongside the South Vietnamese Army, the ARVN, and its allies. An officer of the US Army once described the Thai soldier as "a resourceful and determined fighting man who displayed a great deal of pride in his profession."

Through much of their history, the Thais displayed an indomitable fighting spirit. The military maintains a reputable combat record against Communist separatists, Burmese incursions and any interlopers from Cambodia.

The Royal Thai Armed Forces also possesses an impressive, if colourful, arsenal. This includes an old aircraft carrier, the HTMS Chakri Naruebet, a large navy, a modern air force and a substantial number of tanks.

An ongoing modernisation program's efforts were apparent in the last coup. In 2006, the Royal Thai Army deployed in Bangkok with aging US-made M47 tanks and M16s. Nine years later and they can be seen decked in body armour and equipped with Israeli-made Tavor 21 bullpup assault rifles.

However, these forces have not always acted in the public interest. In 1973, 1992 and 2010, soldiers took part in violently suppressing public protests. It was on 3 May 2010 when government sharpshooters assassinated Major General Khattiya Sawasdiol for rallying alongside Red Shirts encamped in Bangkok.

From 1957 until September 2006, the Royal Thai Armed Forces has intervened to maintain Thailand's status quo at least a dozen times, always with the king's blessing. But whether or not King Bhumibol agreed with their actions is hard to discern.

Strategic intelligence

The most insightful writing on this modern phenomenon of Thai coups is not available to the public except through Wikileaks. Thanks to the actions of the hacker group LulzSec, on 27 February 2012 Wikileaks began publishing the 'Global Intelligence Files', an email trove from the private intelligence firm Stratfor.

The emails span several years of inter-office messages containing what is best described as open-source information and commentary about various countries and political events. The emails related to Thailand are equally illuminating and candid. The best of them is a

Thai soldiers stand guard as peace talks continue in Bangkok on 22 May 2014



A protester in Bangkok in August 2008



Soldiers keep watch at Chiang Mai's Thapae Gate, half an hour before the 10pm curfew kicks in

1976

The military launches a coup d'etat. The National Administrative Reform Council takes charge as an interim government.

1977

Another coup by the generals in the National Administrative Reform Council topples the civilian administration again.

1980

General Prem Tinsulanonda becomes a civilian leader.



1981

Another coup d'etat attempt is launched by a rival officer clique. It fails.

1988

A coup d'etat? General Chatichai Choonhavan replaces Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda.

1991

Launched by General Suchinda Kraprayoon, a coup d'etat overthrows the government of Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan.

1992

Black May mass protests against General Suchinda Kraprayoon leaves scores dead and hundreds wounded in Bangkok.



monograph titled *The Geopolitics Of Thailand: A Kingdom In Flux*.

Stratfor's broad survey of Thai history and culture uncovers the key to its present woes. According to the country profile's authors, Thailand's elites are preoccupied with a single grand strategy: "The economic and political centre of power of Thailand will always lie near the mouth of the Chao Phraya River... The capital [Bangkok] has always had trouble maintaining control over the northern hills, the north-eastern Khorat Plateau area and the southern peninsular provinces."

So when the military stages a coup d'etat, like last year, are they saving Thailand from a civil war? Not quite.

This was done because the Red Shirts, being mostly farmers from Thailand's north – Stratfor's "northern hills" – were in Bangkok since November 2013 to fend off the hateful 'Yellow Shirts' with their long-standing grudge against the Shinawatrass.

In stark contrast to their provincial adversaries, the Yellow Shirts of the People's Democratic Reform Committee are led and funded by Bangkok's wealthiest merchant families, who prospered over the years thanks to their connections with the royals and the government bureaucracy.

In the present impasse, Prime Minister Chan-ocha's de facto junta, the National Council for Peace and Order, are keeping a lid on any form of open dissent in Bangkok, forbidding even public sandwich-eating by university students.

With 'martial law' lifted on 1 April 2015, the National Council for Peace and Order remains firmly in control and empowers soldiers to keep a watchful eye on potential 'subversives'. Simply put, the seat of power must never be under threat from within or without.

A revelation

In a leaked email from mid-2011, Stratfor's analysts had reached a startling conclusion based on Marshall's own writing.

Supposedly there was an unnamed clique in the Thai royal palace, led by Queen Sirikit, which was cultivating two high-ranking officers,

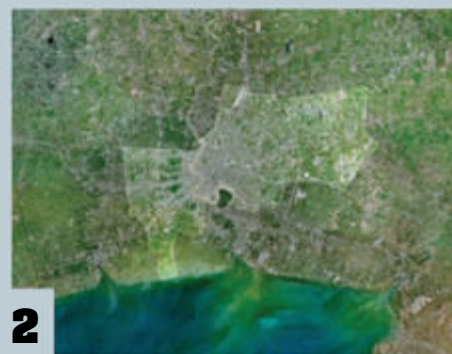
“So when the military stages a coup d'etat, like last year, are they saving Thailand from a civil war? Not quite”

THE URBANISATION OF BANGKOK

Bangkok's rapid urbanisation is a perfect example of an economic miracle in progress. The first image charts urban sprawl from 1974-1984, and the second is a satellite image from



2006. The differences are startling, especially when similar growth cannot be found anywhere else in Thailand, which is helping feed the national class war.



the former army chief and ex-coup leader Prem Tinsulanonda and General Prayuth Chan-ocha.

Both served in the elite Queen's Guard, which was a ceremonial unit, and were now tasked with perpetuating the "post-WWII system," i.e. the status quo of the royal family and the Bangkok elite.

In 2010, the same year that the Red Shirts were blockading Bangkok's streets, General Chan-ocha became the new army chief. Barely four years later, he installed himself as prime minister of a junta, a military government, with the royal family's blessing.

So it appears the 2014 coup d'etat was likely a countermeasure launched by the inner circle of Queen Sirikit – King Bhumibol's charismatic wife – to finally oust the Red Shirts from Bangkok and keep them in the 'northern hills'.

At its core, the clear and present danger to Thailand, the world's 25th largest economy with a GDP whose purchasing power parity was worth \$673 billion (£455 billion) in 2013, is an immense social divide between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots'.

The great symbol of the haves, the proverbial one per cent, is Bangkok – an ultramodern capital and one of the largest cities in Asia. Since 1960, when Thailand began a long march away from an agrarian economic base, Bangkok's size grew by almost 100 per cent each decade.

The capital today, endowed with a breathtaking skyline and urban sprawl on opposite banks of the Chao Phraya River, has a population of between 8 and 12 million people.

But the tragedy of Thailand is that there are no second-tier cities. As a matter of fact, no other city or town in Thailand has a population that is greater than 500,000 people.

Despite a prolonged economic boom from 1980 until the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis and

despite the growth of a strong manufacturing and tourism sector, the fruits of these achievements did not trickle down to the common people.

Reset or revolution

The class struggle in Thailand may have deep roots, but its current iteration begins and ends with Thaksin Shinawatra, a multi-billionaire currently in exile who still commands the loyalty of his constituents from the north and north east of Thailand.

An ex-policeman and business tycoon, Thaksin Shinawatra was born on 26 July 1949 in Chiang Mai, the bucolic capital of Thailand's northern province, whose historical ties are actually closer to Burma than the central plains in the south.

Between 2001 and 2006, he managed two long-lasting accomplishments: endearing himself to the Thai masses, especially his "people" in the north, and earning the perpetual contempt of the Bangkok elite, who engineered his ousting in 2006.

Thaksin Shinawatra continues to live abroad and his sister Yingluck has been forced from office. Having generals in power means the fervour of the Red Shirts has subsided.

Meanwhile, for Prime Minister Chan-ocha and his junta, the job of running the country falls to them. Three months after their coup d'etat, a draft budget was released and approved. The government is expected to spend \$81 billion (£54.8 billion) in 2015, with generous funds readied for schools, infrastructure, salaries, and a slightly larger slice of eight per cent for defence spending. It is not uncommon for generals to reward themselves once the public purse is under their control. And the future? Now that is very much a question mark.

1997

Thailand's ballooning external debt reaches critical mass. The stock market plunges and a real estate bubble pops. The Asian Financial Crisis is in full swing.

2006

Yellow Shirts stage mass protests against Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's government. A royalist coup d'etat is launched soon after, toppling the current government.



2014

On 19 May, martial law is declared by the Royal Thai Armed Forces. General Prayuth Chan-ocha assumes power four days later.

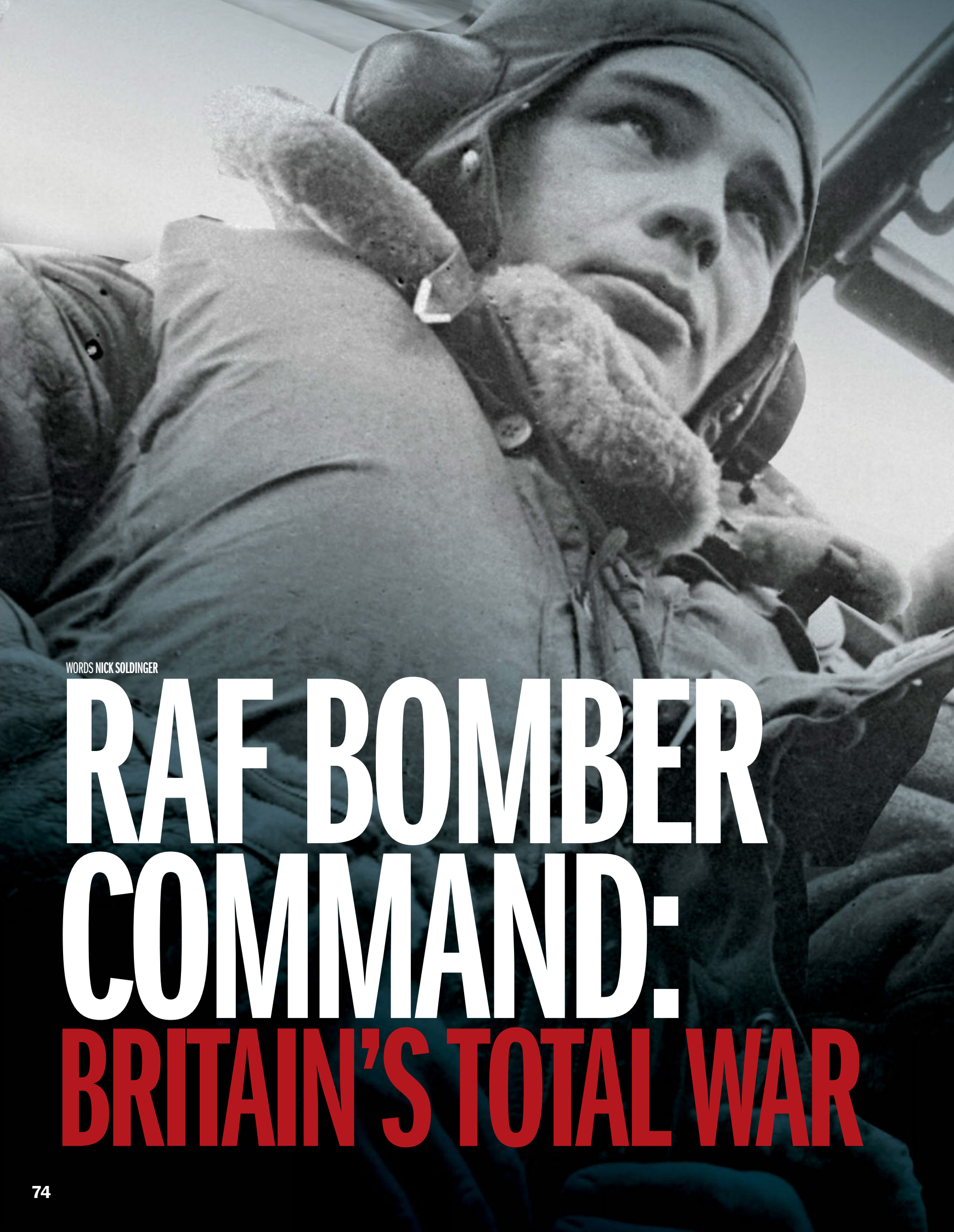


2015

On 1 April, martial law is repealed by Order Number 3/2558, which sets new guidelines for military oversight and policing in the public sphere.



Alamy, Corbis, Getty

A black and white photograph of a pilot in a bomber aircraft. The pilot is wearing a flight helmet with a microphone and a thick, fur-lined jacket. He is looking out of the cockpit window with a focused expression. The background shows the interior of the aircraft and the sky.

WORDS NICK SOLDINGER

RAF BOMBER COMMAND: BRITAIN'S TOTAL WAR

10pm, 13 February 1945. Air-raid sirens wail across the rooftops of the capital of Saxony, eastern Germany. Many of its inhabitants shrug, believing it to be another false alarm. The war may have been raging for five years but so far its shadows have barely touched them.

Their city, a masterpiece of Renaissance splendour, has never been bombed. And why

should it? It has little military significance, and besides, it's been acknowledged as an 'open' city – a civilian centre with no means of defending itself. But this is no false alarm.

The sirens are unwitting heralds of what will become one of history's greatest catastrophes. What happens in the city's streets over the next 14 hours will go on to sear the name Dresden into the human psyche as a byword for barbarism.

The man who sent the bombers to Dresden was RAF Air Marshal Arthur Harris, and the raid was his symphony – the culmination of a strategic philosophy three years in the making. Tasked by Churchill in 1942 with transforming Bomber Command from an incompetent outfit into a war-winning weapon, he had created one of the conflict's most-destructive forces, and what he was about to unleash at Dresden was proof of its horrific power.

"THE ULTIMATE AIM OF THE ATTACK ON A TOWN AREA IS TO BREAK THE MORALE OF THE POPULATION THAT OCCUPIES IT. TO ENSURE THIS, WE MUST ACHIEVE TWO THINGS: FIRST, WE MUST MAKE THE TOWN PHYSICALLY UNINHABITABLE. SECOND, WE MUST MAKE THE PEOPLE CONSCIOUS OF CONSTANT PERSONAL DANGER. THE IMMEDIATE AIM IS, THEREFORE, TWOFOLD, NAMELY TO PRODUCE (I) DESTRUCTION AND (II) THE FEAR OF DEATH." – SIR ARTHUR HARRIS

A Handley Page Halifax over the target during a daylight raid on the oil refinery at Wanne-Eickel in the Ruhr, 12 October 1944



TAKING THE FIGHT BACK

HOW CHURCHILL'S BELIEF IN AERIAL BOMBING WOULD TRANSFORM THE RAF

With its army routed at Dunkirk and no foothold left on the continent, bombing the Third Reich from the air was the only real way Britain could strike back at Germany. Not long after the RAF's Fighter Command stopped the Nazi invasion force from crossing the Channel during the Battle of Britain, Churchill announced: "The fighters may be our salvation, but the bombers alone provide us with the means of victory."

It was a controversial view, not least because when Churchill announced it, RAF Bomber Command was in no position to deliver that victory. It had neither the planes nor the tactics. Its force of 280 light bombers flying in daylight made little impact in the earliest days of the war, and a switch to night raids to reduce the 50 per cent casualty rate did little to improve performances. By mid-1941 a secret report revealed that very few RAF bombs were actually reaching their target. It wasn't a status quo Churchill was prepared to accept. In 1942, he replaced Bomber Command's boss Richard Peirse with the pugnacious Arthur Harris, and gave him orders to deliver on his vision of victory through aerial bombing – whatever the cost.

THE BOMB SQUAD

THE MEN WHO MADE BOMBER COMMAND A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION

WINSTON CHURCHILL

YEARS ACTIVE: 1940-45

A champion of the idea of area bombing against civilian targets, he was instrumental in ensuring Bomber Command had the leadership (by appointing 'Bomber' Harris), the manpower (125,000 men were enlisted; 55,000 would be killed) and the enormous amount of resources required to pound Germany's cities from the air.



AIR MARSHAL ARTHUR 'BOMBER' HARRIS

YEARS ACTIVE: 1942-45

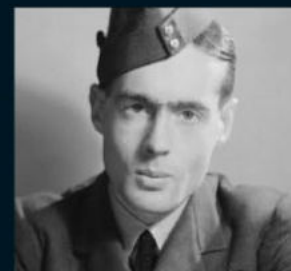
Bomber Command's boss had an evangelical belief that area bombing would win the war. Single-minded, driven and with a genius for strategy and logistics, he both promised and delivered 1,000-strong bomber raids against Germany within three months of being appointed. More than 600,000 German civilians would be killed in air raids.



GROUP CAPTAIN LEONARD CHESHIRE

YEARS ACTIVE: 1939-45

Leonard Cheshire was the RAF's youngest group captain and Bomber Command's most highly decorated pilot. Emblematic of the ingenuity, courage and selflessness of bomber crews, he helped improve plane designs and tactics while taking colossal risks in combat. He devoted the rest of his life to charity work.



BRITAIN'S BOMBERS

ARMSTRONG WHITWORTH WHITLEY

ENTERED SERVICE: 1937
BOMB PAYLOAD: 7,000LB (3,175KG)
RANGE: 1,650 MILES (2,655KM)

The RAF's first heavy bomber, the Whitley's impressive range meant that it was the go-to choice for longer sorties early on in the war. First bombing German targets in May 1940, a month later, following Italy's entry into the war, it was used to hit Turin and Genoa. In August of the same year it also bombed Berlin for the first time, as well as the Skoda factory in northern Czechoslovakia, which was manufacturing military vehicle parts. Although only used sporadically by Bomber Command until 1943, the Whitley's last sortie was in April 1942, when it took part in a raid on Ostend.

VICKERS WELLINGTON

ENTERED SERVICE: 1938
BOMB PAYLOAD: 4,500LB (2,041KG)
RANGE: 1,540 MILES (2,478KM)

Designed by 'bouncing bomb' inventor Barnes Wallis, the Wellington's fuselage consisted of woven struts, making it capable of absorbing tremendous damage. It first saw action the day after war was declared on 4 September 1939, when 14 Wellingtons attacked the German fleet in the North Sea. Initially used as a daytime bomber, huge losses of this robust and ubiquitous aircraft were instrumental in persuading Bomber Command to switch to night-time raids only. When the RAF's 1,000-bomber raid hit Cologne on 30 May 1942, more than half the planes in the sky were Wellingtons. It was phased out by Bomber Command from 1943 onwards.

HANDLEY PAGE HALIFAX

ENTERED SERVICE: 1939
BOMB PAYLOAD: 12,000LB (5,443KG)
RANGE: 1,280 MILES (2,059KM)

The second-most important heavy bomber at the RAF's disposal, this four-engine beast was slower and less capable than its better-known cousin the Avro Lancaster. It was also seemingly jinxed. The first raid to feature this plane in March 1941 ended ignominiously when an RAF fighter accidentally shot one down. Further operations revealed a series of design flaws and the Halifax spent the war in an almost constant state of evolution, only to be decommissioned as soon as the war ended. Despite that, it still flew nearly 83,000 missions, dropping about 250,000 tons of high explosives.

SHORT STIRLING

ENTERED SERVICE: 1939
BOMB PAYLOAD: 14,000LB (6,350KG)
RANGE: 2,010 MILES (3,235KM)

The first of the four-engine heavy bombers to join the RAF, design flaws and a lower ceiling due to shorter wingspan meant that the Stirling suffered proportionally greater losses than the higher-flying Lancasters and Halifaxes. In addition, operational sorties exposed the serious limitations of the plane's engines, meaning the payload it was able to carry had to be reduced. On missions deep into Germany, or those that required them to scrape over the Alps into Italy, Stirlings were restricted to carrying just 3,500 pounds of bombs – a quarter of what it was designed for. Bomber Command phased it out from 1943 onwards.

AVRO LANCASTER

ENTERED SERVICE: 1941
BOMB PAYLOAD: 22,000LB (9,979KG)
RANGE: 2,530 MILES (4,072KM)

This RAF icon made its debut in a raid over Essen in March 1942. A month later it showed its true worth after a successful low-level raid on the city of Augsburg, deep in Nazi Germany. From then on, the Lancaster was used both for mass bombing runs and specialist high-risk raids alike – the most famous of these missions, of course, being the legendary Dam Busters' Raid in the Ruhr in May 1943. Other notable successes include the bombing of the V1 rocket facility at Peenemünde, northern Germany, in August 1943, and the sinking of Hitler's last great battleship Tirpitz the following year.

"ALTHOUGH PART OF BOMBER COMMAND'S MAIN FORCE, THE MOSQUITO ENJOYED A MORE SPECIALIST ROLE, OFTEN ATTACKING RISKY, HIGH-VALUE TARGETS"

DE HAVILLAND MOSQUITO

ENTERED SERVICE: 1941
BOMB PAYLOAD: 4,000LB (1,814KG)
RANGE: 1,485 MILES (2,390KM)

With a top speed of 408mph, the wooden Mosquito handled like a fighter and had few serious challengers in the air. It made its operational debut in a raid over Cologne in May 1942. Although part of Bomber Command's main force, it enjoyed a more specialist role, often attacking risky, high-value targets. Its most famous raids include those on the Gestapo HQ in Oslo in September 1942, the bombing of Amiens Prison to free resistance fighters in February 1944 and an attack on a Berlin radio station in January 1943 while Hermann Goering was about to make a speech.

Not to scale



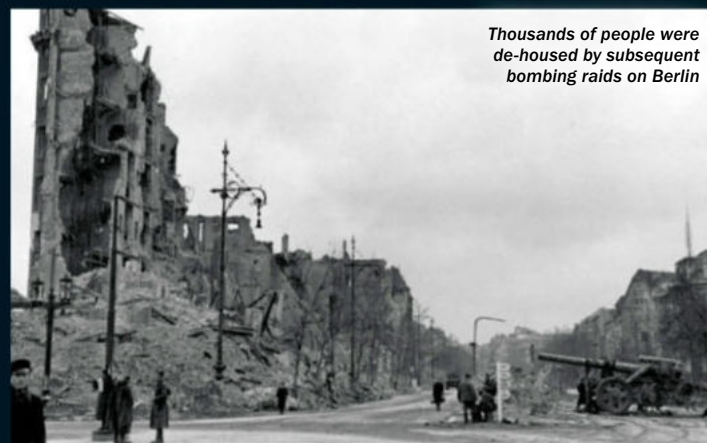


A KEY TARGET

"BOMB BERLIN!" CHURCHILL TOLD THE RAF, AND OVER THE COURSE OF THE WAR MORE BOMBS WERE DROPPED ON THE NAZI CAPITAL THAN IN ANY OTHER GERMAN CITY

On 24 August 1940, German bombers attacked London. As well as hitting the docks, they also dropped bombs on the financial district and the West End. Churchill demanded that the RAF retaliate without delay, and the following day 70 British bombers set out to return fire on Berlin.

Located in eastern Germany, the Nazi capital was just about in range of the aircraft Bomber Command had available to it at the time, but neither its crews nor its tactics were up to the job of inflicting



Thousands of people were de-housed by subsequent bombing raids on Berlin

much damage. An important psychological blow had been struck, however, and the city that the head of the Luftwaffe, Hermann Goering, had claimed could never be bombed had been shown to be vulnerable from air attack. As the war went on, it would find itself targeted time and again by Bomber Command.

In November 1943, Harris launched what he called the Battle

of Berlin, and for the next four months sent 16 separate attacks against the city, believing it would cause Germany to surrender. It didn't, but it did cost the RAF 1,047 bombers and their crews, while 4,000 Berliners were killed and a further 450,000 – more than a tenth of the population – were left homeless. Hitler's total war had come home.



CRUSHING THE GERMAN WAR EFFORT

FROM FRANCE TO NORWAY, FORTRESS EUROPE BECAME BOMBER COMMAND'S HUNTING GROUND, WITH EVERYTHING FROM BATTLESHIPS TO ENTIRE CITIES TARGETED FOR DESTRUCTION

When the war began, Churchill was determined to smash the Third Reich from the air. Early on, though, the effectiveness of the bombing campaign was hampered by the technological shortcomings of the aircraft available. But, by 1942, with the arrival of the Avro Lancaster that had both the range and the payload capacity to inflict serious damage to any target within a 2,500-mile radius, Bomber Command finally had the right tool for the job. In its new chief, Bomber Harris, it also had a man who was convinced the war could be won by aerial bombing alone, and was determined to prove it.



AMIENS, NORTHERN FRANCE

TARGET: AMIENS LOCAL PRISON

In one of the most daring and mysterious raids of World War II, 19 Mosquitos crossed the channel on 18 February 1944 and, hopping the treetops, flew to Amiens to bomb the prison there. Officially, the mission was to break down the walls, allowing incarcerated French Resistance fighters to escape so they could organise themselves ahead of the D-Day invasions. However, the raid killed significantly more inmates than it liberated and conspiracy theories abound about its true purpose.

RENNES, NORTHWEST FRANCE

TARGET: TRANSPORT LINKS

Three days after the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944, a huge force of nearly 500 Lancasters, Halifaxes and Mosquitos attacked multiple railway lines in and around Rennes. The idea was to prevent German reinforcements in southern France from reaching the Battle of Normandy. All the raids were successful with just four aircraft lost, and were particularly notable for the attack on the Saumur tunnel, which prevented a German Panzer division from reaching Allied troops on the beachheads.

LE CREUSOT, CENTRAL FRANCE

TARGET: THE SCHNEIDER FACTORY

On 17 October 1942, in another high-risk daytime attack, 94 Lancasters set out to blow up a major manufacturing installation that was building heavy guns, tanks and armoured cars. Without a fighter escort and flying at treetop level to avoid radar, they attacked the factory in the late afternoon, dropping 140 tons of bombs on it and destroying its power station in the process. All but one of the planes returned safely.

HAMBURG, NORTHERN GERMANY

TARGET: DOCKS AND SHIPYARDS

By 28 July 1943, when Bomber Command hit Hamburg, it was using more incendiary bombs than high explosives. In another 1,000-bomber raid, it set the city alight. Blockbuster bombs were dropped to shake the roofs of the buildings and incendiaries were then scattered to torch the houses. A firestorm was whipped up that blasted 150mph winds at 800 degrees Celsius around the city. An estimated 42,000 people were killed during the operation, with as much as 96 per cent damage to buildings reported in some areas.

PEENEMÜNDE, NORTHERN GERMANY

TARGET: NAZI ROCKET FACILITY

Nearly 600 aircraft – 324 Lancasters, 218 Halifaxes and 54 Stirlings – took part in this raid to knock out the V1 rocket research establishment on the Baltic coast on 17 August 1943. Mosquitos hit Berlin in a diversionary raid to draw away enemy fighters while the main force attacked the facility under bright moonlight. Nearly 1,800 tons of bombs were dropped on the target, affecting manufacturing significantly and setting back the rocket programme two months. 40 aircraft were lost in the raid.

COLOGNE, WESTERN GERMANY

TARGET: CIVILIAN POPULATION

On 30 May 1942, the first of Harris's promised 1,000-bomber raids was launched against the Third Reich. Cologne, Germany's third largest city, was chosen due to favourable weather conditions. The fires caused by the first wave of bombing were so intense that the second wave of bombers was guided in by the glow in the night sky, which could be seen from as far away as England. 22 aircraft were lost while 45,000 civilians were, to use the terminology of the day, de-housed.

DRESDEN, EASTERN GERMANY

TARGET: CIVILIAN POPULATION

This infamous raid took place on 14 February 1945. Its key purpose was to terrorise the local population, and the firestorm it whipped up burned for days. With Germany on the brink of defeat, the need for such a huge attack has long been contested. The sky was so thick with bombers during the course of the operation that three of the six aircraft that Bomber Command lost were destroyed by bombs from planes above them.

THE RUHR VALLEY, WESTERN GERMANY

TARGET: MULTIPLE HYDROELECTRIC DAMS

The legendary Dam Busters' raid took place on 16-17 May 1943. Led by Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC, it aimed to breach the Ruhr dams and flood the surrounding industrialised area. A special 'bouncing bomb' that could skim off the surface of water was invented to complete the task. In the event, two targets were breached, causing catastrophic flooding and serious – albeit temporary – disruption to the German war effort. Only 11 of the 19 Lancasters that set out made it home.

AUGSBURG, SOUTHERN GERMANY

TARGET: THE MAN DIESEL- ENGINE FACTORY

On 17 April 1942, in one of the first Lancaster sorties, 12 bombers flew in daylight at treetop height to avoid radar detection across 1,000 miles of enemy territory. Their aim was to destroy a factory that was manufacturing machine parts for U-boats. Only seven of the 12 planes returned, and although the raid caused limited damage to the factory, it did prove that the RAF now had a plane capable of hitting targets deep within Germany with huge bomb loads.

BERCHTESGADEN, SOUTHERN GERMANY

TARGET: THE NAZI HEARTLAND

On 25 April 1945, Hitler's mountain retreat in Bavaria – the Eagle's Nest – became one of Bomber Command's last targets of the conflict. Of little strategic importance, it was chosen for political reasons with pilots from 300 Polish Bomber Squadron among those given the privilege of attacking it. Although nearby SS installations were completely destroyed, Der Führer's residence survived. It was captured days later by men of Easy Company, the US 101st Parachute Regiment, also known as the legendary Band of Brothers.



Winston Churchill pays a visit to Coventry after the devastating bombing raid of November 1940

A NEW WAR: DIRECTIVE 22

WITH PRECISION BOMBING OF MILITARY MARKS PROVING COSTLY AND INEFFECTIVE, RAF CHIEFS SET THEIR SIGHTS ON A NEW TARGET – GERMANY'S CIVILIANS

In August 1941, Chief of the Air Staff Sir Charles Portal received the Butt Report on the effectiveness of the British bombing campaign thus far. It was damning. It proved, for example, that on average only one in three British bombers got within five miles of their target. This figure dropped to one in ten when the area being bombed was Germany's heavily defended industrial heartland, the Ruhr.

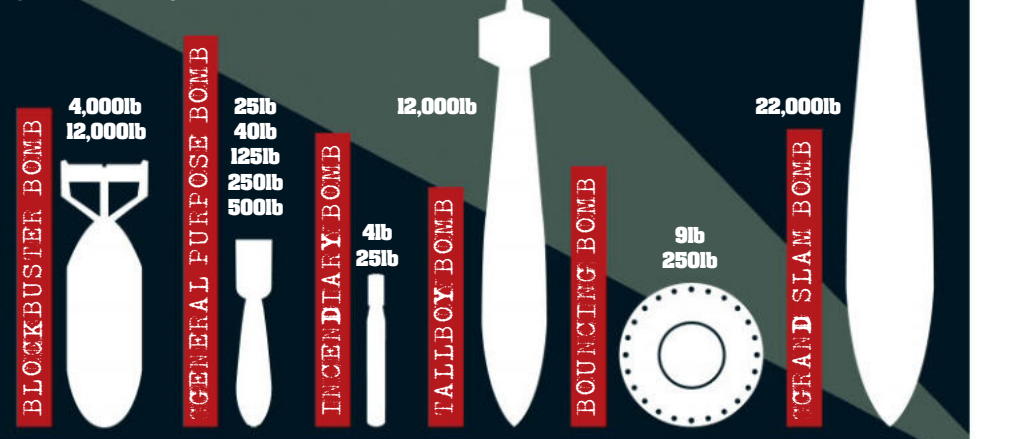
Casualty rates among Bomber Command crews were higher than any other branch of Britain's armed services. Getting hundreds of tons of metal filled with high explosives into the air and transporting it miles across Europe was a hugely expensive business. Precision bombing, it was clear, was just not providing the British war effort with the return on investment it required. The answer was area bombing, so on 14 February 1942 Portal issued Policy Directive 22. It stated that henceforth the primary target of Bomber Command was to be "the morale of the enemy civil population, and in particular the industrial workers."

When the Germans bombed Coventry on 14 November 1940, they'd hit the city with 1,400 high-explosive bombs and 30,000 incendiary shells. More than 50,000 buildings had been damaged and 500 civilians killed. At that time, Coventry was one of Britain's key engineering centres and the raid had seriously affected the city's industrial capability. If Bomber Command could do the same thing to Germany's cities,

it was reasoned, then it could create widespread industrial disruption. Smash the infrastructure, smash the factories, smash the workers' neighbourhoods, and you would smash the German war effort. In the event, German war production defied this theory and continued to increase steadily, actually peaking around the start of 1945. By then, though, Directive 22 was a juggernaut that refused to be stopped.

TERROR FROM THE SKIES

FROM DEADLY INCENDIARIES TO GIANT GRAND SLAM BOMBS DESIGNED TO CREATE MINI EARTHQUAKES, THE RAF'S ARSENAL WAS UNDENIABLY FORMIDABLE



THE SCIENCE OF STRATEGIC BOMBING

WITH THE AIM OF DEFEATING THE ENEMY BY CRUSHING MORALE, HOW SUCCESSFUL WAS THE CAMPAIGN?

As the dust settled in the aftermath of Nazi Germany's defeat, Allied governments set about surveying the country and the toll the Allied bombing had taken on both its morale and economy. President Roosevelt sanctioned the United States Strategic Bombing Survey, which began its work even before the death rattle of the Third Reich. Following behind the advancing Allied armies, members of the survey team interviewed German civilians, collected documents and gathered data relating to effects from bombing.

The Morale Division of the US survey was tasked with evaluating what effect bombing had on the will of the population. It discovered that while by the end of the war millions of Germans had been de-housed, morale and the support for the war effort had not been diminished as much as the RAF chiefs may have hoped. Soon it became clear that the greatest effect was on the German

workers, by preventing them from reaching their workplace at all.

Destruction of infrastructure such as communication lines, bridges and railways directly prevented workers from reaching their factories, but the surveyors could find no evidence that bombing in and of itself significantly depressed the morale of the German population. It was the Nazi government itself that still buoyed enthusiasm for the war and controlled the civilian population through fear and ideology, despite the Allied bombs. As demonstrated in this graphic, it formed its own countermeasures to the RAF bombing doctrine and ensured the German war machine would rumble on to the end.



THE BOMBING OF DRESDEN

UNLEASHING THE FULL FORCE OF THE RAF

The decision to bomb Dresden was made at the Yalta Conference in Crimea on 4 February 1945, when Churchill promised Stalin that his bombers would "clear the way" for the advancing Red Army. Just nine days later, the first wave of bombers hit the city minutes after 10pm.

The first planes over were the pathfinders, who lit up the sky with parachute flares. The main force of nearly 800 Lancasters – carrying more than 1,400 tons of high explosives and 1,100 tons of incendiary bombs – could now see where to unleash their deadly payload.

For the next half hour a gargantuan conveyor belt of bombers streamed over the city, emptying the huge bombs in their bellies onto the unprotected population below. Dresden had few air-raid shelters, and many of the people on the ground, including an estimated 600,000 refugees and 26,000 Allied POWs, had nowhere to hide from the onslaught. When the bombers finally passed over, those who'd survived crawled from the rubble to discover the streets choked with body parts and their beautiful city centre ablaze. But worse was to come.

Three hours later the bombers returned. This time 529 Lancaster brought with them more than 1,000 tons of mostly incendiary bombs. The fire that was already chewing up the centre of the city was extended into its suburbs. Dresden became enveloped in a hurricane of flames as a 150mph firestorm whipped upwards

out of the city and into the night sky, searching for oxygen to feed it. Up with it went countless victims sucked into the flaming vortex, pulled apart and flung scorched into the surrounding countryside. Others meanwhile melted into the burning asphalt as they tried to flee or boiled in the cellars where they hid. Because of the huge numbers of refugees in Dresden at the time, nobody can be sure how many were killed. Some estimates are as high as 300,000.

“DRESDEN HAD FEW AIR-RAID SHELTERS, AND MANY OF THE PEOPLE ON THE GROUND HAD NOWHERE TO HIDE”



Up to 90 per cent of Dresden's city centre was destroyed during the bombing and resulting firestorm





COUNTING THE COST

HOW HIGH A PRICE WAS PAID FOR
BOMBER COMMAND'S CAMPAIGN?

8,325

Aircraft lost by Bomber Command

600,000

Germans killed in air raids

55,573

Allied airmen killed

430,747

Tons of bombs dropped on cities

64,522

Tons of bombs dropped on military targets

22

Average age of all
airmen killed

75%

Of Hamburg was
destroyed in raids

56%

Of all aircrew were
killed

61

German cities
were hit in raids

£100,000

the price of one Lancaster

12%

Of all aircrew ended
up as POWs

2

9

Of the 19 VCs won
by airmen were
posthumous

Weeks – the life
expectancy of a
Lancaster's tail gunner

GRUMMAN F4F

A hardy fighter that helped the Allies dominate the war in the Atlantic and the Pacific

WORDS JACK GRIFFITHS

The Fleet Air Arm Museum's Martlet is the only surviving F4F-4 model in the world and was the fighter the Allied navies desperately needed in 1940

"IT GAINED A REPUTATION AS A TOUGH AND RELIABLE FIGHTER PLANE THAT COULD SOAK UP AXIS BULLETS"

MARTLET



7,885 F4Fs were built in total and they were the main shipboard fighters for the USA when it entered the war in 1941

GRUMMAN MARTLET AL246

LENGTH: 8.8M (28.9FT)
WINGSPAN: 11M (38FT)
RANGE: 1,239KM (770 MILES)
ENGINE: RECIPROCATING WRIGHT
 R-1820 G205A CYCLONE
MAXIMUM SPEED: 527KM/H (328MPH)
CEILING: 12,029M (39,500FT)
CREW: 1
PRIMARY WEAPON: 4 X 0.5IN M2
 BROWNING MACHINE GUNS
SECONDARY WEAPONS: 2 X 100LB BOMBS

Originally ordered by France from the USA in 1940, the Grumman Martlet was produced too late to aid the French when the Wehrmacht marched into the Ardennes. Sent back to Britain instead, the aircraft would play a key role in all theatres of World War II from Norway to Africa and the Far East.

1,123 Martlets served the Allies in the war and the craft became invaluable in the Battle of the Atlantic, sinking 23 U-boats. Their main role was to provide anti-submarine support for the Arctic convoys that sent supplies to and from the Allied powers. However, they are most famous for proving their worth in the Pacific with the American forces.

Known as the Wildcat in the USA, the fighter contributed to the battles of Wake Island and Midway, among others. There, it gained a reputation as a tough and reliable fighter plane that could soak up Axis bullets. It may not have been as technically advanced as its rival, the Japanese Mitsubishi Zero, but its higher-service ceiling allowed it to power-dive the Zero out of the sky.

Production of the aircraft ceased in 1945 as newer planes such as the iconic F4U Corsair and F6F Hellcat replaced the by-now aging Wildcat. The final victory-to-loss ratio for the F4F during the war was an astonishing 69:1, demonstrating just how valuable it was to the Allies.

WILDCAT FIGHTER ACES THE HIGHEST-SCORING US F4F PILOTS OF THE WAR



MAJOR JOE FOSS

Joe Foss was the top-scoring ace of the war with 26 victories in just 44 days of combat.

He was awarded a Medal of Honor for his services and served with distinction as a lead pilot in the Guadalcanal Campaign.



COLONEL JOHN LUCIAN SMITH

The destroyer of 19 Japanese planes, John

Lucian Smith was another recipient of the Medal of Honor. In the Solomon Islands Campaign, he led Marine fighter Squadron 223, which downed 83 aircraft.



MAJOR GENERAL MARION EUGENE CARL

Marion Eugene Carl was awarded the Navy Cross

twice, his first earned at the Battle of Midway and his second won at Guadalcanal. At one point his fighter was shot down and he spent five days living with natives.



The dials in the cockpit are all original components and have not been altered since the aircraft arrived at the museum



Moving on from the age of the open cockpit, the Martlets incorporated a plate of armoured glass in front of the pilot

COCKPIT

Seated right in the centre of the fuselage, behind the engine, the pilot had a good view of his surroundings, which helped with manoeuvres and overall performance in dogfights. The only downside was a reduced viewpoint of the pilot's 'six' due to the razorback design of the cockpit. The landing gear was controlled by a hand crank, which was one of the oldest contraptions on the whole aircraft. F4Fs often lacked armour behind the seats when they came straight off the production line, but this was strengthened before they were thrust into battle.

WHEELS

The narrow track undercarriage gave the aircraft its name, Martlet. In English tradition, a Martlet is a bird with ineffective legs, and the fighter was renowned for having a weak undercarriage, so the name stuck. The Martlet name was not taken on by US forces, which preferred the more war-like title Wildcat. One of the most advanced devices on board the plane was the ZB homing device, which allowed the aircraft to find ships within a 48-kilometre (30-mile) range when troubled by poor visibility.



The F4F was a barrel-shaped plane with angular wingtips and narrow undercarriage. Auxiliary fuel tanks greatly increased its range

“THE MARTLET NAME WAS NOT TAKEN ON BY US FORCES, WHICH PREFERRED THE MORE WAR-LIKE TITLE WILDCAT”



WRIGHT R-1820 G205A CYCLONE ENGINE

With a constant-speed three-bladed propeller, the pace of the F4F allowed it to strafe targets before the heavy bombers were called in to finish the job. The F4F's power came from its nine-cylinder engine that packed more than 1,000 horsepower into the fighter. This particular model used the Wright R-1820 Cyclone while later models, especially in the USA, installed a redesigned Pratt & Whitney R-1830-76 series engine that included a two-stage supercharger. The engine was situated in front of the pilot but was cleverly fixed in a way that did not obscure his forward view.



The wheels would retract into the fuselage when the mid-wing metal monoplane was in the air

RIVALS IN THE SKY WHICH AIRCRAFT TUSSED WITH THE F4F FOR AIR SUPREMACY?

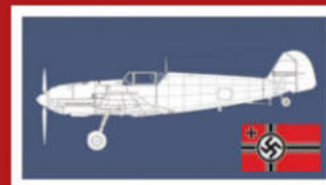
MITSUBISHI A6M ZERO

The scourge of the F4F in the Pacific theatre of World War II, the Zero could outmanoeuvre the Wildcat and had a much longer range. It held this advantage over the F4F until the US pilots began using hit-and-run attacks that allowed their fighters to weave and protect one another's tails, tactically outthinking the Japanese.



MESSERSCHMITT ME 109 T

The Third Reich preferred to use U-boats instead of carriers, so carrier-based fighters never got off the ground for the Kriegsmarine. The Me 109 T was a version of the Messerschmitt considered for Nazi carriers but only 70 were made before the programme was cancelled. This small number was still used in the defence of the Reich.



BREWSTER F2A BUFFALO

Before the F4F made its name in the war, the Buffalo was actually the preferred aircraft of the USA. The successor to the F3F biplane, it soon became apparent that the Buffalo was too sluggish and cumbersome to be effective in the air. They struggled in the Battle of Midway and were soon replaced by the Wildcat throughout the US Navy.



Our Senior Staff Writer Jack went to see the Martlet at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, which is one of the UK's four Royal Navy museums



The Fleet Air Arm Museum's Martlet AL246 is the only surviving F4F-4 (G-36A) in the world and spent its life serving Britain

"THE WILDCAT HAD A LIMITED BOMBING CAPACITY OF ITS OWN AND CARRIED JUST TWO 100LB BOMBS"



One of the main features of the Martlet F4F-4 was folding wings, allowing more to be stored on carriers

MACHINE GUNS

To blast enemies out of the sky, the F4F had four .50 calibre Browning machine guns carrying 400 rounds each. Later models of the Wildcat had six machine guns, which not only added more power but was also a relief to the pilots, as the armament had an unfortunate habit of jamming. When engaging U-boats in the Atlantic, the fighter would shield bombers such as the Avenger from the submarine's anti-aircraft fire while the bomber dropped depth charges and acoustic torpedoes. The Wildcat had a limited bombing capacity of its own and carried just two 100lb bombs.



Some US pilots, like Edward 'Butch' H O'Hare, were so accurate with the F4F weaponry that they could aim and shoot directly at the engines of enemy fighters

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BOOK REVIEWS

History of War's pick of the newest military history titles waiting for you on the shelves

A THUNDER BIRD IN BOMBER COMMAND

Writer Sean Feast Price £19.95 Publisher Fighting High

THE STORIES FROM THE FRONT LINE THAT CAME TO INSPIRE ONE OF THE NATION'S MOST-LOVED TV SHOWS

This book tells the story, in the form of letters sent home, of a young RAF pilot called Lionel Anderson. The book's hook is that Lionel was the older brother of filmmaker Gerry Anderson, the man who gave the world's children such wonders as *Captain Scarlet*, *Stingray* and, most famously, *Thunderbirds*.

Gerry had just turned 15 when Lionel, a Mosquito pilot, was killed in action. With his pilot's wings and matinee-idol looks he must have dazzled his younger sibling, and his death clearly had an impact on the boy who'd grow up to breathe life into so many dashing fictional heroes. In fact, as stated in the foreword by the actor who voiced *Thunderbirds'* selflessly heroic pilot Scott Tracy, Anderson's shows were inspired by and intended as a homage to his lost brother.

That in itself would be enough to give this book a powerful emotional resonance, but *A Thunder Bird In Bomber Command* isn't just deeply moving, it's also a superb piece of social history. On one level it offers us an intriguing insight into a fast-fading age. On another, it permits us into the private world of a man as he takes a thrill-ride through the first years of his adult life – years that will also prove to be his last.

Along the way we discover that this was an age when the fear of a Nazi invasion was enough to persuade some British Jews to change their name. Anderson, it transpires, is an Anglicisation of Abrahams, which the family adopted to mask their Jewish origins. We also learn that, for men like Lionel, the war presented an unprecedented opportunity for adventure, travel, and social mobility.

Lionel's family were living in a shabby one-room flat in London when war broke out. Lionel was just 17, but when the Blitz came, he volunteered as a stretcher-bearer. More than 60,000 Londoners were killed in the subsequent bombings, and the

horrors that Lionel witnessed, along with a thirst for adventure, inspired him to stop the Nazis in the skies.

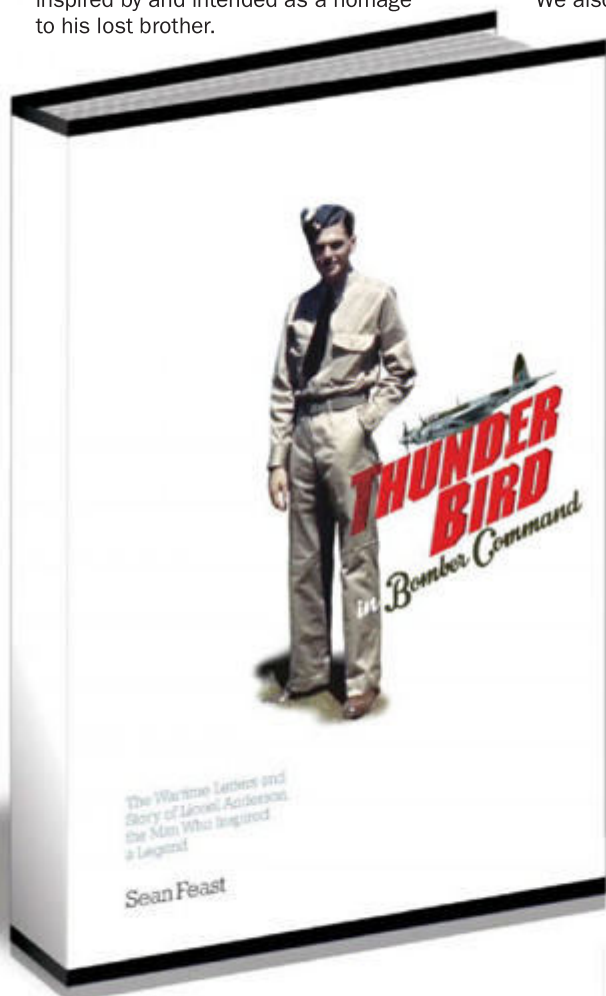
His account of the war through his letters begins shortly after being accepted for pilot training when he's stationed in Manchester's Heaton Park. In Lionel's words it was a "bloody awful hole" but it was to be the first stage of a staggering journey. Next stop was Glasgow, where he embarked on a risky U-boat-dodging voyage across the Atlantic to Canada. From here a train took him from frozen Quebec, via Chicago and across Texas, to the Arizona desert.

There, in a town called Mesa, he'd encounter rodeos and snakes, appear briefly in a Hollywood film called *Thunder Birds – Soldiers of The Sky*, and, of course, learn to fly. He returned to Britain, via New York, in September 1942, where he joined an intruder squadron, whose job it was to act as decoys for heavy bombers by pestering German fighters to chase them instead. It was a dangerous game of cat and mouse, and the 36th time he played it, he lost. He was just 22, but like so many of his generation had done so much, and the little brother he'd left behind would ensure that his legacy would never be forgotten.

"A Thunder Bird In Bomber Command isn't just deeply moving, it's also a superb piece of social history"



As Nazi bombs pounded Britain, a young Lionel Anderson was determined to fight back



DEATH OF A NATION: A NEW HISTORY OF GERMANY

Writer Stephen A'Barrow **Price** £18.50

Publisher Book Guild Publishing

A METICULOUS LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF A NATION THAT IS TOO OFTEN
DEFINED BY THE EVENTS OF WORLD WAR II

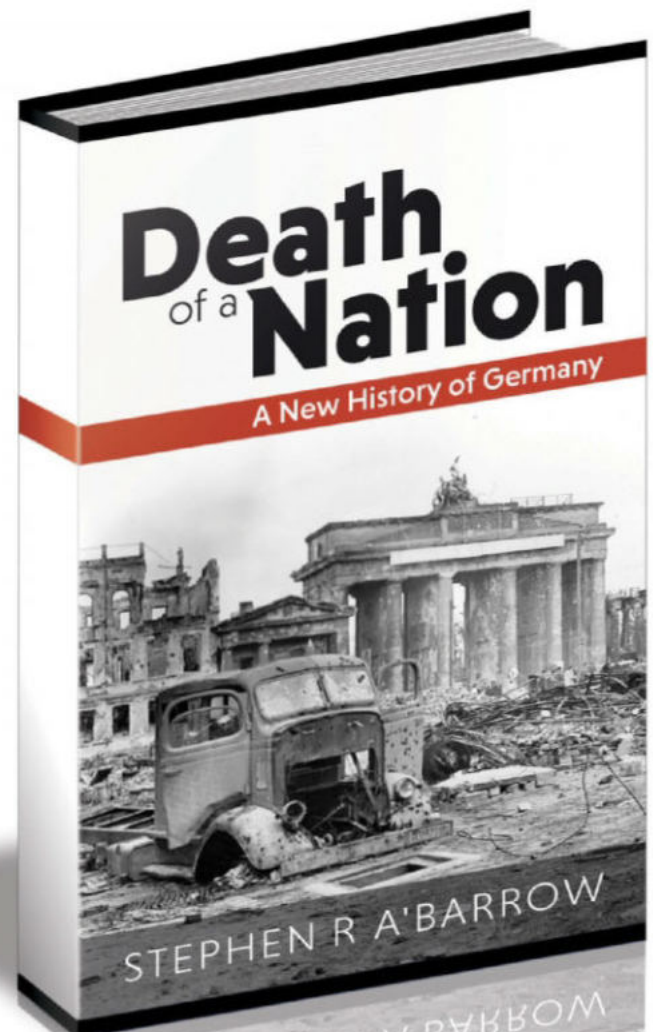
History, so the saying goes, is written by the victors. In the case of Germany, that couldn't be truer, with so many of our modern-day preconceptions shaped by the role the country played in World War II. Well, Stephen A'Barrow's book is a powerful and persuasive attempt to tackle those preconceptions head on.

Unlike many books on German history, this one doesn't merely focus on the period from 1870 (when a unified nation was born under Bismarck) to the collapse of the Nazi state in 1945. Instead, it starts in antiquity, with the Germanic tribes that helped take down the Roman Empire. Its epic narrative then sweeps forward towards the present day. First describing how the migration of the Germanic tribes helped shape the nation states around it, before explaining the part Germans played in the crusades, in the Enlightenment, and in the Protestant Reformation. We also get plenty on Charlemagne, the

Habsburgs and Frederick the Great. In fact, we are well over halfway through the book before it touches upon The Third Reich – a subject that, according to the author, two thirds of all other books on German history focus on.

When it reaches it, the book deals with the war and its aftermath with honesty and integrity. This is no attempt at revisionism, it is about contextualisation. And it's no less flinching when it comes to the fate suffered by the war's losers in its aftermath. Its account of 'die Vertreibung', when ethnic cleansing saw 19 million Germans forced off of their historical lands in the east by Stalin, shines a light on a barely acknowledged but nevertheless vast human tragedy.

This is a passionately argued, highly accessible and important work that seeks to redress the balance when it comes to our understanding of how the Germans have helped shape European history.



WHEN BRITAIN SAVED THE WEST: THE STORY OF 1940

Writer Robin Prior **Price** £20 **Publisher** Yale University Press

AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY LIFE OF GREAT
BRITAIN DURING A PIVOTAL PERIOD IN WORLD WAR II

Gazing across the decades it seems evident that the Allies would win World War II. The American economy with its huge production capabilities, Hitler's ill-fated decision to launch Operation Barbarossa and the US manufacture of the atomic bomb together would ensure the failure of the Nazi war machine.

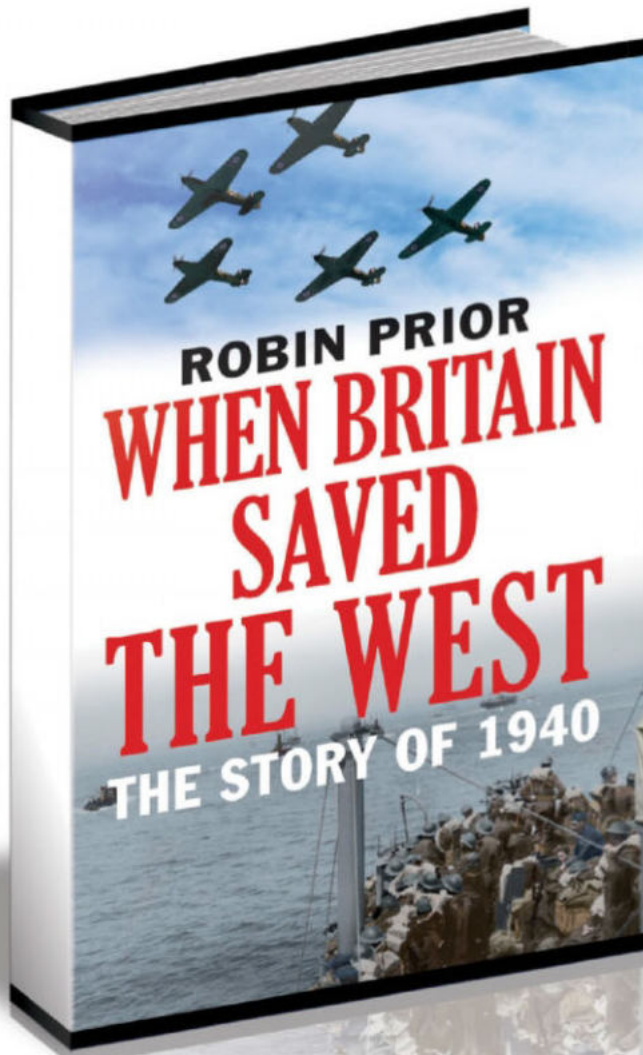
None of this was apparent in 1940, however. Then, Britain was the only major power standing between Hitler and the conquest of Europe. And what if it had faltered? Could the Allies have re-conquered Europe without these shores as a launching pad? Might Hitler have defeated Russia if he no longer had to contend with Britain?

We will never know the answers, but the questions pull into focus the importance of Britain's position in 1940. If the country had failed, suggests Robin Prior in this

meticulously researched book, the ideals of the West would have failed with it. For this historian, 1940 was the 20th century's most critical year.

Beginning with the phoney war, Prior recounts the stories of the British Expedition Force (BEF) and Dunkirk, the Battle of Britain and the Blitz, while also charting the stuttering ineptitude of Chamberlain's government and the rise of Winston Churchill's, as well as the forging of the special relationship with America.

"If Churchill had not come to power on 10 May it is difficult to see the year ending well for Britain," writes Prior. It is hard to disagree. Churchill spun Dunkirk as a morale-boosting success, arguing that the BEF's bravery and prowess in France, and Britain's recovery of its core military force, ensured that the country could fight on. This is a tightly focused, scholarly and enthralling book.



ALL ABOUT HISTORY RECOMMENDED READING

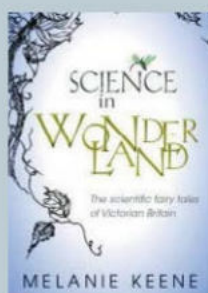
THE DAMNED (DUCKWORTH OVERLOOK)

Tarn Richardson takes you into an entirely different horror within World War I in this alternative history novel. With the Spanish Inquisition still very much operational, there are thrills, blood spills and more in this original story.



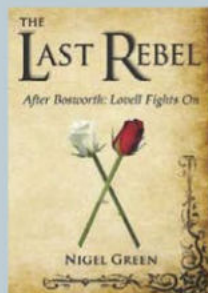
SCIENCE IN WONDERLAND (OUP)

An age of discovery is tinged with fantasy in Melanie Keene's 19th-century setting. With a narrative that juxtaposes scientific inquiry with myth and fairytale, this work will give you a peek beyond the rabbit hole.



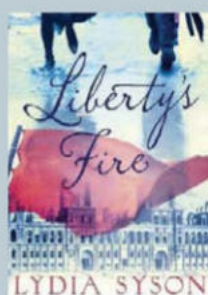
THE LAST REBEL (STELLAR BOOKS)

The Battle of Bosworth has never been more present in the public awareness, and this work capitalises on that with an account of Henry Tudor's campaign. Expect more than a pinch of salt with this one.



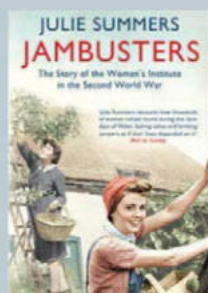
LIBERTY'S FIRE (HOT KEY BOOKS)

Taking you into the turmoil of Paris in 1871, just after the Prussian siege, four intertwining characters are inexplicably drawn to one another. With a backdrop of a capital in chaos, their very survival is at stake.



JAMBUSTERS (SIMON & SCHUSTER)

With the Home Front of World War II kicking fully into action, the WI was in the tricky position of being a pacifist group in the midst of war. This title captures the spirit of the war at home, with terrific insight in the WI's work.



THE SILENT DAY

Writer Max Arthur **Publisher** Hodder & Stoughton **Price** £9.99

AN ORAL HISTORY FROM CIVILIANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL, RECOUNTING THE D-DAY EXPERIENCE FROM THOSE ON THE HOME FRONT

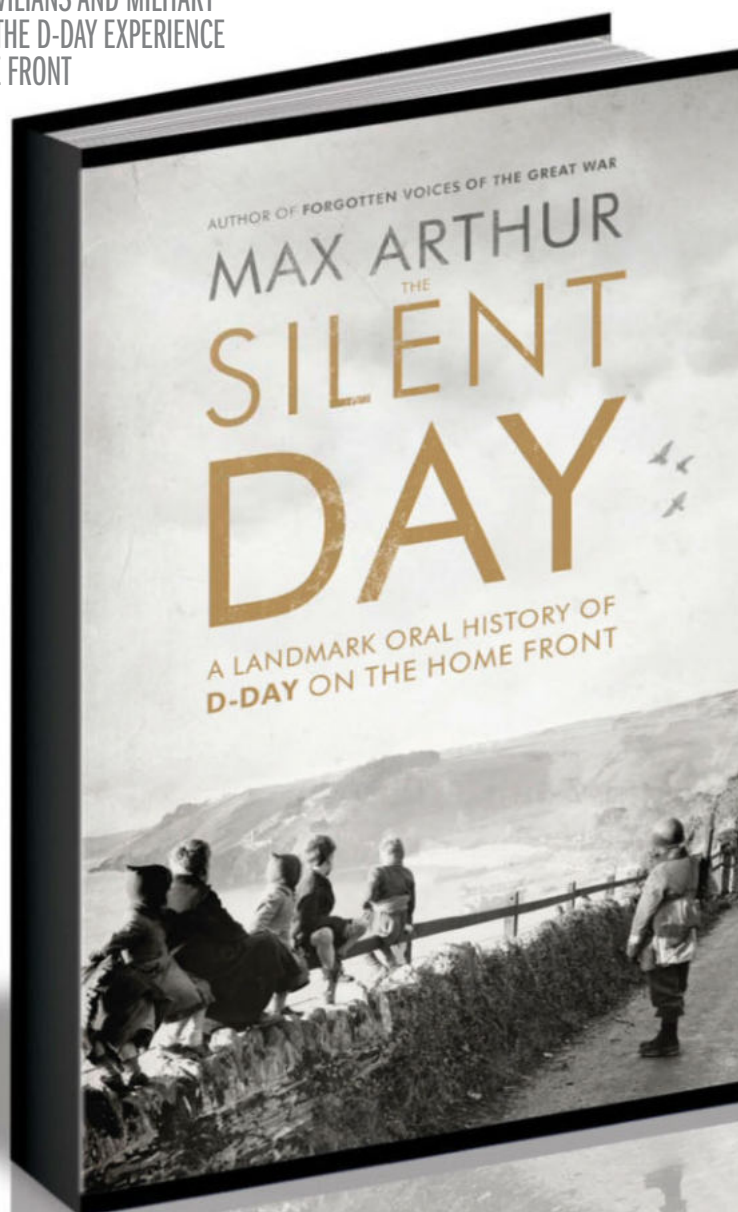
A master of collating oral accounts, Max Arthur turns his talents to 6 June 1944, when, overnight, 160,000 Allied troops disappeared from these shores to embark on the D-Day landings.

A further 24,000 had left shortly before to launch the Allies' paratrooper missions. A peculiar emptiness fell across the land.

Arthur's inspiration for collecting these real-life stories came after talking to the last soldier to have fought on the Western Front during World War I, who recalled visiting an American camp on the morning of 6 June to find it deserted, "half-eaten meals on the table. It was eerie." The stories are diverse, from young and old alike, beginning in 1939 and moving chronologically towards the end of the war, though the final chapter carries no dates, as what these contributors saw and felt, Arthur notes, "would be with them for the rest of their lives."

The accounts convey a dizzying array of emotions. Some are funny, some touching, others heart rending, while more than a few encompass a gamut of emotions. Take, for example, the testimony of Marion Ainsworth, telling of an American sailor "with the ridiculous name of Everett Englebart," who fell in love with her sister and refused to sail. One night, two Shore Patrol men came to get him. "They led him away, sobbing." Some mothers watching this drama shouted: "Go quietly, son." Ainsworth's sister never saw him again.

Other accounts seem shocking, such as that from an official of Southampton port who reported nine attacks by British troops on their American counterparts. With the book made up solely of first-hand accounts, though, *The Silent Day* is unlikely to prove a populist page-turner. It is, however, a vital store of evidence for historians and sociologists and is a book into which the enthusiast might enjoyably dip; every page features fascinating insights.



"It is, however, a vital store of evidence for historians and sociologists and is a book into which the enthusiast might enjoyably dip; every page features fascinating insights"

WORLD WAR II: THE DEFINITIVE VISUAL GUIDE

Edited Richard Holmes et al Price £25 Publisher DK

COULD THIS BE THE MOST COMPLETE BOOK ON WORLD WAR II EVER RELEASED?

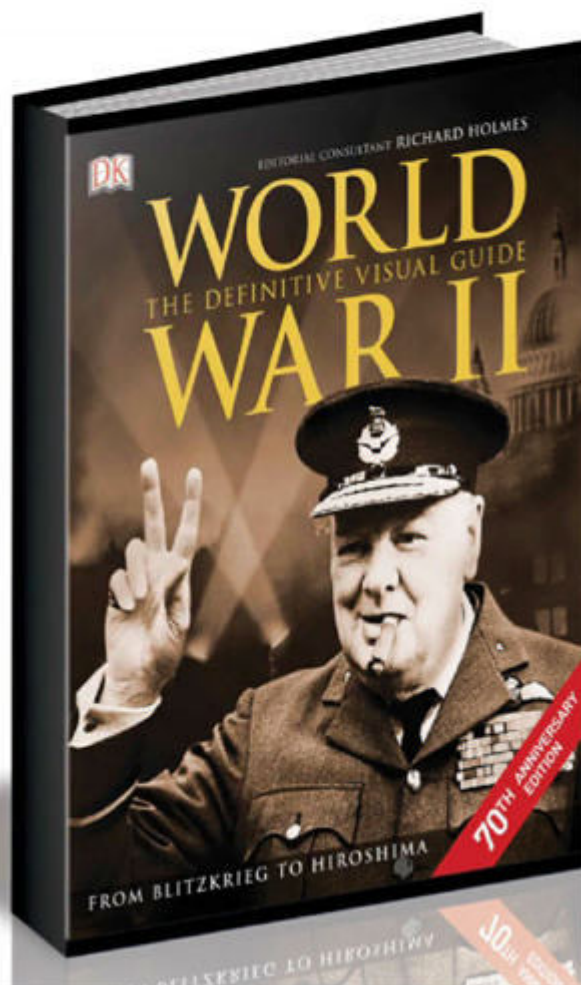
In his role as editorial consultant of *World War II: The Definitive Guide*, the late great Richard Holmes describes the release as an “accessible survey that has long been missing.” The *War Walks* historian could not be more correct and this book is one of the best, if not the best, way to educate and inform anyone on World War II.

There are a million and one books on the conflict but very few manage to encompass the whole period in such depth, while still making it accessible to all students of history. The ‘user-friendly’ design of the release is the book’s main selling point. The imagery is crisp and varied while the text is accompanied by timelines and diagrams. Seasoned historians shouldn’t arrive at this book thinking they’ll learn nothing new though. The German voting slip that has signed the NSDAP as their choice

of party is as chilling as it is revealing while the Allied espionage kit recalls a bygone era of spying. The nigh on 400-page book never stops to breathe and takes the reader on a journey from before ‘peace in our time’ to after VJ Day. As an added bonus to the six-year voyage through the war, *World War II* is bookended by a brief analysis of the inter-war period and a final section titled ‘The War Remembered’. The two segments add context to the book and backup its claims to be a definitive guide. This release is also the 70th anniversary edition, so you get an extra 12 pages for your trouble.

Compelling and educational in equal measure, we can’t recommend *World War II: The Definitive Guide* enough. The book has the potential to be your companion to the war as you return again and again to this excellent release.

“This book is one of the best, if not the best, way to educate and inform anyone on World War II”



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WHAT DOES THE AANS STAND FOR?

- A. Australian Army Nursing Service
- B. Auxiliary Asphalt Nazi Squad
- C. Aardvarks Against Nepotistic Standards



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WAR IN NUMBERS

THE GULF WAR

The facts and figures of Operation Desert Storm

697,000

▲ Troops served on active duty in the Gulf War for the United States of America

\$26 billion

▲ Amount lent to Iraq in aid by Saudi Arabia during its previous war with Iran

88,500

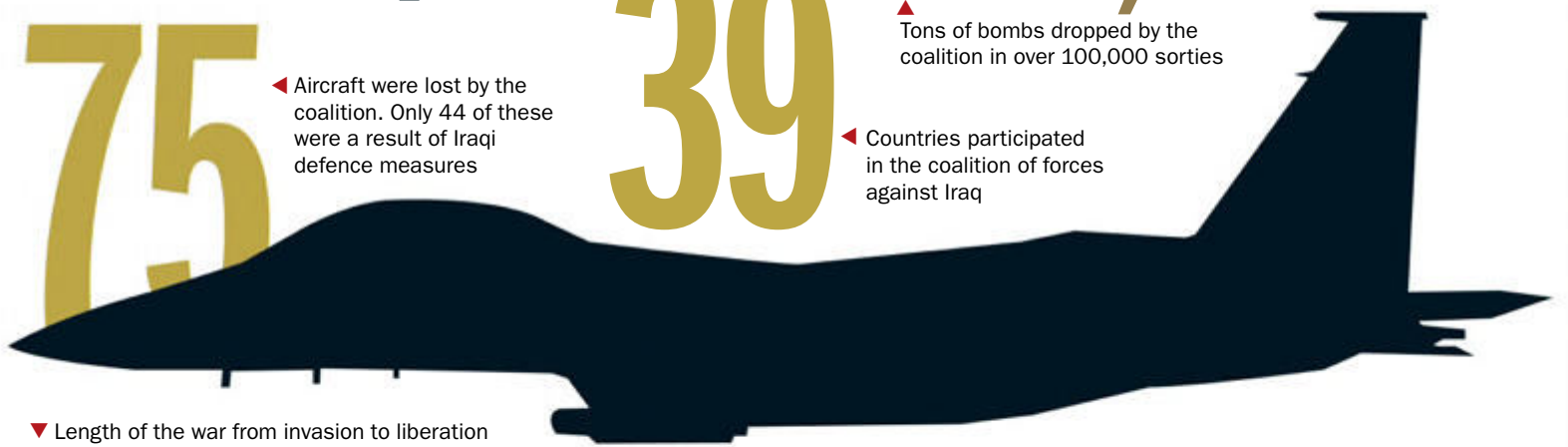
▲ Tons of bombs dropped by the coalition in over 100,000 sorties

75

▲ Aircraft were lost by the coalition. Only 44 of these were a result of Iraqi defence measures

39

▲ Countries participated in the coalition of forces against Iraq



▼ Length of the war from invasion to liberation

6 months
3 weeks
5 days

206,861

▲ US veterans have claimed benefits for injuries and illness from combat in the Gulf War

\$61 billion

▲ Cost of the Gulf War to the USA. The cost to the American taxpayer was \$7 billion, working out at \$26.92 per American citizen

GALLIPOLI 1915



ANZAC

The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915, part of a seaborne assault on entrenched positions on Turkey's Aegean Coast. Despite acts of great bravery, poor leadership and limited territorial gains meant that the surviving ANZAC troops were evacuated by the close of the year.



Waltzing Matilda

"Nearly blew us right back to Australia. But the band played Waltzing Matilda as we stopped to bury our slain. We buried ours and the Turks buried theirs. Then we started all over again". This poignant ballad, originally written and recorded by Eric Bogle, was famously covered by The Pogues.



Lancashire Landing

The 1st Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers landed at dawn on 'W' Beach, Cape Helles, 25 April 1915. Under heavy machine-gun fire the unit suffered 50% casualties. By 07.15 the survivors had established a beachhead. Six Victoria Crosses were awarded to officers and men of the Battalion, forever known as 'Six VCs before Breakfast'.

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HMS Agamemnon

HMS Agamemnon, a Royal Navy battleship took part in the huge naval contribution to the Gallipoli campaign, seeking to weaken Ottoman Turkish operations with bombardments from the sea followed by delivering the beach landings of Australian, New Zealand, British, Indian, Canadian and French forces.

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